Customs seizes over 4 lbs of 'ice' in candy-filled packs. PAGE 2
COVID-19 vaccine available for kids under 5 years. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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IPI inks deals to lease out 265 hotel rooms, villas; launch shopping mall

By BEN BLASCHKE
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission.

Imperial Pacific International Holdings (IPI) has entered into agreements with two independent third parties to lease a majority of its hotel rooms and villas, and to set up a shopping mall, at its Saipan integrated resort, Imperial Palace-Saipan.

This is despite ongoing negotiations between IPI and the Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) over the fate of the company's Saipan casino license, which has been suspended since April 2021 and is on the verge of being revoked. The casino has been closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

IPI revealed Thursday that it has signed a four-year agreement with Sino Travel Samoa Limited for the latter to underwrite the leasing of 250 hotel rooms and 15 villas at Imperial Palace, pending the receipt of all necessary licenses and approvals from Saipan's authorities in relation to the operation of Imperial Palace.

The annual gross rental income underwritten by Sino Travel will not be less than US$104.4 million at an average rate of US$1,000 per hotel room per day and US$2,400 per villa per day, IPI said, with the travel agency to provide "full support to the operator of

See IPI on Page 4

Japan-Saipan flights by Sept.

United Airlines will be offering direct flight services between Saipan, CNMI and Narita, Japan, beginning September 2022, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday.

"This is a great step in revitalizing our historic Japan market, which has always been a priority of my administration. Since the pandemic started, we have been working

See FLIGHTS on Page 4

State of emergency hoisted on Tinian

» **Grass fire on Tinian spread, burned typhoon debris that contained materials with toxic chemicals**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A major disaster and state of significant emergency was declared on Tinian last Thursday, arising from a grass fire that had spread to a site where typhoon debris that contained toxic chemicals and other e-waste materials had been stored.

Hofschneider

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who was at the

See STATE on Page 4

Team NMI delivers at home

Supported by the home crowd, Team NMI exceeded expectations as the host won 16 gold medals, 13 silvers, and nine bronzes in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

"It's unreal," said Team NMI chef de mission Bob Coldeen after watching the islands accumulate more gold and total medals than all the Pacific and Mini Games (combined) it previously participated in.

Weightlifting handed Team NMI 11 gold medals,

See TEAM on Page 4

Team NMI athletes and officials acknowledge their supporters during the closing ceremonies for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track oval. Inset, a Palau representative accepts the Pacific Games Council flag as the next host of the Mini Games.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/NMPMG

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

NATION
Both supporters and opponents of abortion rights are mapping out their next moves.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS
Scientists say several changes occur with aging that disrupt our natural sleep cycle.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
After six decades, John Williams is putting the final notes on what may be his last film score.

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Local

Customs seizes over 4 lbs of 'ice' in candy-filled packs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Customs Biosecurity intercepted another large shipment of methamphetamine or "ice"—roughly over four pounds—that were guised as packages filled with candies during a routine inspection at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa.

Customs director Jose Mafnas informed the media during a press conference last Friday that Customs seized 4.04lbs of crystal methamphetamine during that inspection and that Customs officers managed to intercept the "ice"—valued at over $549,000—before it was sent out to a private mailbox.

According to Mafnas, Customs officers were doing routine inspection last June 21 at the U.S. Postal Service of parcels that were going out to private postal companies and that's when the officers discovered one of three parcels that were filled with candies. Upon removing the candies, officers uncovered crystalline substances in a large ziplock baggy that later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. The two other parcels were opened and examined and officers uncovered crystalline substances in the packages as well.

Mafnas said that Customs then contacted other local enforcement partners and, after further investigation, led to the arrest of two Chinese nationals, a male and female named Yang Chun and Wang Yurong, respectively.

In a statement from Department of Finance Secretary David Atalig, he said the seizure by the Customs Biosecurity officers is commendable.

"Crystal meth is a very addictive illegal drug and corroding our social fabric, and is destructive to families and individuals. Thus, Custom's diligent efforts at the ports of entry to keep our communities safe is vital to our island economy and the health of the people of the Commonwealth. I am proud of the officers involved in this particular seizure, and consequent arrests. Thank you to director Mafnas and his team and other law enforcement partners," he said.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Roughly over four pounds of methamphetamine or "ice" that were guised as packages filled with candies are discovered during a routine inspection at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa.

Last Friday, Yang and Wang were brought before District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy for an initial appearance on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a federally controlled substance.

The judge set a detention hearing for the pair on June 28 at 1:30pm before Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. Meanwhile a preliminary examination for the two defendants was set for July 8, at 9am before Manglona.

According to court documents, at around 3pm one June 21, Customs replaced the "ice" inside the parcel with fake items and the package was shipped to the private mailbox company called Pacific Postal Plus where surveillance was established in the vicinity.

CNMI Customs relinquished custody of the package (with the sham) to the manager of Pacific Postal Plus to be delivered per their normal operating procedures.

At approximately 6pm, Pacific Postal Plus closed for business and Customs retrieved the parcel and maintained custody until the next day.

On June 22, at approximately 7:30am, DEA Task Force officer Mike Pangelinan installed a GPS tracker and a sensor that indicates if the parcel is moving and if light enters the parcel indicating the parcel has been opened. Surveillance was re-established at Pacific Postal Plus Mail Service and, at approximately 7:50am, the parcel was brought back to the Pacific Postal Plus for delivery.

At approximately 3:40pm, surveillance observed an in-

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

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About 200 US Marines and sailors deploy to the CNMI, Palau

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—Task Force Koa Moana 22, composed of U.S. Marines and sailors from I Marine Expeditionary Force, is deployed to the Indo-Pacific to conduct security cooperation activities in the Republic of Palau and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from June to August 2022.

Task Force Koa Moana 22 is comprised of approximately 200 U.S. Marines and sailors from 1st Marine Logistics Group and I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, who will task-organize into multiple detachments with expertise in providing engineering, medical, maritime law enforcement, and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities.

Task Force Koa Moana 22 provides a unique opportunity to bolster relationships with the Republic of Palau. Task Force Koa Moana 22 will conduct subject matter expert exchanges throughout the Republic of Palau to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the Compacts of Free Association and to enhance interoperability when responding to potential humanitarian assistance operations. Additionally, the task force will conduct subject matter expert exchanges and community relations projects on Tinian, Saipan and Rota, emphasizing the importance of the relationship with the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Named "Koa Moana," after a Hawaiian/Polynesian phrase meaning "ocean warrior," the task force is designed to strengthen and reinforce relationships between the U.S. and partner nations in the Indo-Pacific, enhance interoperability with local security establishments, and serve as a humanitarian assistance survey team afloat in support of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command strategic and operational objectives.

Task Force Koa Moana 22 has diligently planned and adhered to COVID-19 mitigation measures to include vaccinations of all participating Marines and sailors. All service members adhere to Department of Defense guidance and partner nation COVID-19 protocol. The task force will continuously monitor the health of all assigned service members throughout the deployment. The health and safety of the community and of our service members are our highest priorities. ***(PR)***

COVID-19 vaccine available for kids under 5 years

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration, will be offering COVID-19 vaccines to children under 5 years old (ages 6 months to 4 years old).

COVID-19 booster shots are also available to children aged 5-11 at least five months after their primary series. Eligible individuals can obtain a COVID-19 primary or booster shot by calling the CHCC Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745.

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at the following: Medical Associates of the Pacific, Kagman Isla Community Health, Marianas Medical Center, as well as Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, Family Care Clinic, Children's Clinic, and Women's Clinic. Contact each clinic for more information.

For more information on receiving a booster shot, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html.

Young children are at risk for contracting COVID-19, and some can get seriously ill. Even if a child does not get severely ill, they could face long-term health consequences or pass the virus to others. The best way to protect children against COVID-19—in daycare, school, sports, and with their friends—is by getting them vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines for young children are safe and effective. Like other pediatric vaccines, these vaccines were thoroughly tested and then reviewed by the FDA and CDC before these agencies authorized and recommended them for wide use. The vaccines will be available at no cost and regardless of citizenship or insurance status.

According to the CDC, emerging evidence indicates that people can get added protection by getting vaccinated after having been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Even if a child has had COVID-19, they should still get vaccinated. For children who have been infected with COVID-19, their next dose can be delayed 3 months from when symptoms started or, if they did not have symptoms, when they received a positive test. This possible delay can happen with a primary dose or a booster dose.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who have received a booster.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shot. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur. ***(PR)***

Who Can Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?
Visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html for more information.

Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson's Janssen*
Primary Series *5 Years and Older*: 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech in the primary series, given 3–8 weeks apart. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 3rd dose at least 4 weeks after their 2nd dose in the primary series. *6 months through 4 years*: 3 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech in the primary series. The 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 3 to 8 weeks and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 8 weeks. For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system), the 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 3 weeks, and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 8 weeks.	**Primary Series** *18 years and older*: 2 doses of Moderna in the primary series, given 4–8 weeks apart. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 3rd dose at least 4 weeks after their 2nd dose in the primary series. *6 months through 5 years*: 2 doses of Moderna in the primary series, given 4 – 8 weeks apart. For people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system), the 1st and 2nd doses are separated by 4 weeks, and the 2nd and 3rd doses are separated by at least 4 weeks.	**Primary Series** *Recommended in some situations for people 18 years and* older: 1 dose of J&J/Janssen. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system) should get a 2nd dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna at least 4 weeks after their 1st dose in the primary series.
Booster *5 years and older*: People who received a Pfizer-BioNTech primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose. *6 months through 4 years*: Currently a booster dose is not authorized for children in this age group.	**Booster** *18 years and older*: People who received a Moderna primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose. Use CDC's COVID-19 booster tool to learn if and when you can get boosters to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines. *6 months through 5 years*: Currently a booster dose is not authorized for children in this age group who received a Moderna primary series.	**Booster** People who received a J&J/Janssen primary series should get a booster. Only some people can get a 2nd booster dose.

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Man gets five-year sentence for plunging woman's face in toilet

The Superior Court has imposed a five-year sentence on a man who pleaded guilty to plunging the face of his former girlfriend down a toilet in a fit of rage.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Joseph Seman last week to five years' imprisonment following his change of plea hearing where he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault following an incident where he plunged his ex-girlfriend's face on their toilet.

However, the court ordered that only the first three years of Seman's sentence is to be served. The remaining two years will hang over Seman's head and may be imposed in whole or in part if he violates any law or Office of the Adult Probation rules. Seman was given credit for 15 days of time served.

Following his sentencing hearing, Camacho directed the CNMI Marshals to remand Seman back to the custody of the Department of Corrections to begin his sentence.

As part of Seman's judgment and commitment order, he will be placed on supervised probation for five years and be made to pay a $140 probation fee each year for five years after completing his sentence.

Seman was also ordered to pay restitution to the victim for her hospital bills due to the injuries she sustained in the amount of $2,737.88.

The defendant was also ordered to stay away from the victim during his probation.

Seman, 32, has allegedly been beating his girlfriend for some time and had attempted to flush her head in their toilet because she made a noise while getting out of bed to use the restroom, which woke him up.

Initially, Seman was charged with two counts of assault and battery, aggravated assault, and strangulation.

In exchange for Seman pleading guilty to aggravated assault, the Office of the Attorney General dismissed the remaining charges.

According to the victim, Seman had physically abused her several times in the past but it was after an incident on April 3, 2022, when Seman punched her face at about 5pm and told her that if she ever tells anyone about the abuse, he'd kill her, when she reported the abuse.

On April 5, investigators met with the victim again for a follow-up interview where they learned more about Seman's alleged abuse. The most recent incident allegedly happened on March 29, prior to the victim calling the police.

The victim said she had woken up to use the restroom and her bedroom door made a squeaky noise, causing to wake Seman up. Seman angrily told her that she shouldn't be making a noise. Then, while the victim was using the toilet, Seman allegedly entered the restroom and slapped her on the head, yanked her hair, and used both his hands to push off the toilet.

The victim said Seman then instructed her to put her face in the toilet and when she did so, Seman flushed the toilet twice before threatening to kill her and that he would send the video to her mother. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

to both bring back and diversify our main tourism markets. We are excited to see these direct flights between Saipan and Japan, which is something we have not had since the beginning of the pandemic," said Torres. "I want to thank United Airlines for offering this flight service for both our visitors and our community, and most importantly, for their continued partnership with the CNMI."

Torres also thanked the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other agencies for their work in not only promoting the Marianas in Japan but also continuing to identify opportunities for growth and development of the local tourism industry.

"I would also like to thank the Consulate Office of Japan, and Japanese companies and communities in the CNMI for their support and collaboration," he added.

"We have had a good and longstanding relationship with Japan, and we now have the opportunity to rebuild the CNMI as a choice destination for Japanese visitors, at the same time as developing our other markets. I want to acknowledge the continued work and collaboration of our business partners, local organizations, and entire community to welcome back visitors to the Marianas and revive a thriving tourism industry," said Torres.

Sam Shinohara, managing director of Airport Operations for Asia Pacific at United Airlines, said that United Airlines is proud to be the carrier of choice to provide this new direct service between Saipan and Narita, Japan.

"Gov. Torres and his administration, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the community have done an incredible job preparing for the reopening of the Japan market, and United Airlines is proud to support these efforts through our sales team in Japan and our team here [on] Saipan," he said. "In addition to providing inbound travel for tourists, the new Saipan-Tokyo/Narita direct service will provide residents of the CNMI with more convenient connections to Asia and major cities in the U.S." ***(PR)***

STATE

From Page 1

time the acting governor, issued Executive Order 2022-08, saying the fire, which occurred last June 19, had already been contained and extinguished, but it has caused noxious smoke and fumes to drift throughout the neighboring areas, causing a threat to the residents' health.

In consultation with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office and other agencies, Hofschneider said he believes a declaration of major disaster and a state of significant emergency is warranted.

Hofschneider authorized Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to have access, reprogram, or transfer funds from accounts of Executive Branch departments and agencies, including autonomous or independent entities, to fund the containment, mitigation, and remediation of the threat to the health and welfare of people.

"This is an important issue that needs to be addressed immediately, to mitigate the effects of the incident and ensure the health and safety of the people of Tinian," he said.

Hofschneider has been in communication with Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan to address the concern.

He said when the grass fire broke out, it grew and spread rapidly until it reached the location where waste and debris from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 were being sorted for disposal.

Hofschneider said much of the waste and debris included "white good" waste, e-waste, tires, batteries, and other things that contained "toxic chemicals [that were] dangerous or otherwise unhealthy for humans."

The acting governor commended the Tinian Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, and all the agencies for their response to mitigate the fire.

Hofschneider expressed confidence in the abilities of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, the CNMI Office of Planning and Development, and local agencies in prioritizing resources and finding solutions to mitigate the situation.

He also thanked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their partnership in working with the CNMI to address this critical situation.

IPI

From Page 1

Imperial Palace by recruiting or outsourcing a hotel management team to operate Imperial Palace in a manner of a 6-star hotel."

Sino Travel is described as providing travel-related services including planning and selling transportation, accommodation, insurance and other travel services covering Hong Kong, China, India and Samoa.

Separately, IPI said it has signed an exclusive cooperation agreement that will see it form a joint venture with Jiadingsheng Supply Chain Management Co Ltd.—a company founded in Fujian, China in 2010, to operate a shopping mall at Imperial Palace for a term of four years from Oct. 20, 2022.

The mall will cover around 1,000 square meters on the ground floor of Imperial with Palace with Jiadingsheng guaranteeing a minimum annual revenue of HK$300 million (US$38.5 million) and net profit of HK$20 million (US$2.6 million).

IPI said the agreements were designed to bring in much-needed revenue while it negotiates to retain its casino license.

"The Group has been actively communicating with [the] CCC for a settlement proposal with an aim to resume the casino resort developer license as soon as practicable," it said. "Meanwhile, the Group has been formulating business strategies to utilise the Group's currently available resources in generating income on the resort and leisure travelling part of the Saipan project with an aim to maximise Shareholder's value.

"The Company is of the view that the entering into of the Underwriting Agreement and the Exclusive Cooperation Agreement would provide an opportunity for the Group to utilise the Group's currently available resources in generating income on the resort and leisure travelling part of the Saipan project amid the temporary suspension of the casino resort developer license."

See the original article at: https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2022/06/24/ipi-inks-deals-to-lease-out-265-hotel-rooms-and-villas-launch-new-shopping-mall-at-saipan-resort/

TEAM

From Page 1

with Ray Santos and David Barnhouse getting three apiece, Angel San Nicolas and Jason Limes gaining two each, and Joey Colisao adding one.

Tennis provided the home team three gold medals, with Colin Sinclair prevailing in the men's singles and teaming up with Robbie Schorr in the men's doubles finals win. Sinclair, Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Colin Ramsey also topped the men's team event.

Golf's Zhimin Jin also made it to the gold medalists list for Team NMI with her victory in the women's individual event, while the NMI National Baseball Team capped the hosts' gold rush in the Mini Games with a 12-9 finals triumph over rival Guam last Friday.

Weightlifting also gave Team NMI the most silvers with 10 (three each from Leo Apelo and Antonette Labausa, two from Colisao, and one apiece from Leowel Cristobal and Angel San Nicolas). Athletics added two, thanks to Orrin Pharmin and Denise Myers, while beach volleyball's Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson chipped in one.

For the bronze medal tally, athletics' Dennis Borja and the women's 4x100m relay team (Casey Cruz, Zarinae Sapong, Maria Quitugua, Kina Rangamar) contributed one each. Golf's Franco Santos, JJ Atalig, Joshua Atalig, and Zhi Yun Li, triathlon's Isaiah Aleksenko, Leo Wania, Kathy Ruszala, and Heather Brook, tennis' Sinclair and Isabel Heras, and the va'a women's V12 team (Danica Calvo, Elaine Sablan, Elizabeth Tenorio, Erryne Dasalla, Gerlyn Libunao, Heather Calderwood, Jenisha Dubrall, Kaya Rasa, Rica Concepcion, Teresa Sablan, Victoria Aldan, Vinalynn Oronigo), and weightlifting's Riella Ann Ichiou and Jason Limes were the other bronze medalists.

Team NMI went on to win medals in all nine sports featured in the Mini Games, as badminton's Janelle Pangilinan and Jenine Savellano prevailed in their bronze medal match in the women's doubles against Tahiti's Hortensia Manzanal and Waianuhea Teheura, 21-12, 21-9.

Overwhelming support

The Northern Marianas Sports Association shared Team NMI's success in the Mini Games with all the individuals and groups that supported the athletes and officials. NMSA acknowledged Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his unwavering support, the business community who stepped up to the plate, the volunteers from all sectors, Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter and CEO Ben Babauta and their staff, NMSA-member federations and their leadership, the athletes and officials' families, and the rest of the community which for more than a week cheered for Team NMI, rain or shine.

"Seeing everyone come together and rally behind Team NMI gave our athletes and officials the courage and strength to go out there and deliver their best performance. Team NMI's success in the Mini Games is the product of the overwhelming support we got from our community," NMSA president Jerry Tan said.

Coldeen echoed Tan's sentiments, as Team NMI did rise up to the challenge, beating all the odds to put on an outstanding performance in front of the home crowd.

"What we saw was a community ready to burst out. It's like we were knocked down, got up, knocked down again, got up, knocked down, got up, but this time we are staying up," the NMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

"Our athletes were inspired by the overflowing support from the business community and individuals. I believe that helps explain what propelled them to strive harder and achieve greater results than any other Games," he added. ***(PR)***

CUSTOMS

From Page 2

dividual identified as Li Ding Rossi driving a pink Ford Mustang pull up to the Pacific Postal Plus Mail Service. At approximately 3:46pm, Rossi exited Pacific Postal Plus with the parcel and placed it in the trunk of her vehicle.

Rossi drove to JY Car Wash on Middle Road where she met an unknown female who was washing cars. Rossi opened the trunk to the pink Ford Mustang and the unknown female appeared to be taking pictures of the parcel. Approximately two minutes after Rossi closed the trunk, a lime green Yaris arrived, and Rossi and the unknown female approached the driver. The unknown male driver then retrieved the parcel from the pink Ford Mustang and placed it in the back seat of the Yaris. The man, unknown female, and Rossi lingered in the area until approximately 4:23pm when a white Prius arrived. Wang met the white Prius some time later near Johnny's Bar in Garapan and took the parcels.

Wang was followed by the DEA to an apartment behind Godfather's Bar where she met with Yang who later triggered the tracker that was placed inside the parcels.

Police arrested Wang and Yang after the tracker detected light indicating the package had been opened.

WITH FUEL ON ROTA OVER $8 A GALLON AND CONTINUING TO INCREASE

Santos to OGM: Look for incentives to support use of renewable energy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With fuel on Rota now costing over $8 a gallon and still continuing to increase and with steadily

increasing cost of electricity for its residents, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is urging the CNMI Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse to look for grants and other financial incentives to support the development and use of renewable energy on Rota.

Santos

In her letter to OGM administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr. last Friday, Santos said that renewable energy can free the people of Rota from depending on fossil fuels and help decrease their costs.

The senator said the government should ramp up its investment in clean energy generation and storage as a long-term solution.

"This is the best way to avoid future energy price spikes and address energy poverty challenges," she said.

As short term, Santos said, the government, which has greatly been affected by the energy price hikes, will need to take measures to assist vulnerable households. She said this can be done by directly providing money to these households to help with their bills and investing in energy efficiency to reduce the energy burden that consumers shoulder.

Electricity, natural gas, and oil prices have risen globally in recent months, causing hardship for many people around the world. After Russia invaded Ukraine, energy prices spiked.

Santos said U.S. crude oil prices reached as high as $130 on March 6, the highest since July 2008. A week later, U.S. gasoline prices hit a record high price of $4.33 per gallon.

The senator said higher and more volatile energy prices will be a catalyst for individual and global efforts to decarbonize energy grids, which is critical for meeting climate change goals.

"Just being exposed to this higher price volatility has made many of our people think about alternatives," she said.

Santos said renewable energy is also becoming more attractive as a way to protect the CNMI's fragile economy from the swings of energy prices due to geopolitical changes.

She said one advantage of renewable energy is that power prices are generally stable. Santos said once solar and wind farms are built, all they need is the sun and the wind.

In contrast, the senator said, electricity from gas or coal requires a continuous fuel supply, which is vulnerable to disruptions in production and transport.

She said for residential or commercial energy users, investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency or other climate-friendly technologies can be a buffer against the market forces that affect fossil fuels.

US House subcommittee allots $18.4M for seven NMI transportation projects

The U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development included seven transportation projects totaling $18.4 million for the Marianas that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) requested in its fiscal year 2023 spending bill.

Sablan

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the subcommittee approved Thursday a spending legislation that includes $10 million for the Department of Public Works for four road projects and $8.4 million for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for three transit projects.

He said the four DPW road projects are $2 million for the Rota Route 10 Drainage Improvements and Road Overlay, $2 million for the Tinian Route 205 Road and Drainage Improvements, $2 million for the Saipan Route 302 Improvements, and $4 million for the Saipan Route 36 Phase 1 Construction.

The three OTA projects are $4.5 million for 187 bus stop shelters along the Saipan Public Transit Fixed Route, $3 million for a covered bus parking facility, and $900,000 for bus transfer stations at Northern Marianas College, Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and Kagman.

Sablan said the spending bill now goes to the full Appropriations Committee for approval. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Santos, To'omata, Satur top NMHC's writing contest

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has named Aleia Hofschneider Santos as the first-place winner of its My Marianas Writing Contest, an essay competition that focused on food and the role it plays in the local culture.

Santos' essay, called "My First Love," won first place, while the second place went to Lemusu Kit A To'omata's "Picky Eater," and third place went to Honey Satur's "The Story of an Egg."

These essays were the top three of a pool of over 60 submissions from students in the public and private school systems across Saipan, Tinian, and Luta.

The contest presented an opportunity for CNMI Public School System high school students to tell about the way their family uses meals to bond. The task each essay was three-fold: 1) write a personal narrative essay that uses imagery to describe the dish or food celebration that best represents the way you bond over food in your family 2) break down what about the dish brings your family together 3) describe how your family cooks the dish.

The contest was a project conducted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to promote the literacy and diverse backgrounds and experiences of high school students and their respective families and communities. ***(PR)***

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Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid 06/21/22 to 07/31/22. Fuel vouchers and freebies available while supplies last. Rota and Tinian residents will receive Ace Hardware Gift Cards while supplies last. Contract on a 8 GB/$35 Plan or higher required. Contract renewals not eligible for freebie. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net or see stores for details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 064 D 04 containing an area of approximately 7,138 square meters, more or less, situated in Navy Hill, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. The lists of officers for Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, are David Leskosek, as President, and Semesi Betevua as Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of a Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church program and activities, Sunday School, and other church related activities.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, June 30, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum heneråt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyipettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 064 D 04 ni konsisisti kåsi 7,138 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Navy Hill, iya Saipan. I kopianpåttinmåpa i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church." I listanufisiåt siha para i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church," sa si David Leskosek, komu Presidenti, yan si Semesi Betevua komu Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot David Leskosek.

iv. I "lessee" debi na u usa i lugåt solamienti para i hinagai prugråma yan aktibidåt nu "Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church" siha, Iskuelan Damenggu, yan otru manasosiåt na aktibidåt ekglesia siha.

I tema i kontråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku sa' bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durântin i tema magiha gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kontrå tanatkilon siña machuli' gi Ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi PM Building, giya Tinian. Managuaha siempri kopia online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkilamasuhetu na tanu' pupbliku giya Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u akseptatinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat alternative proposals ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Hunio 30, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkáåw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálló bwe Lot 064 D 04 e bwe bwáá bwe 7,138 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, nge David Leskosek, bwe President, me Semesi Betevua bwe Vice President.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngá limwó ghutughutúl Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church me progróómal me mwóghutughut, "Sunday School", me ákkáåw mwóghutughut ikka e bwal schuu long.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúwfengál me llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me reelBwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Navy Hill, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Unnyo 30, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

Andrew Roberto joins 500 Sails

Andrew Roberto has been named as the new director of Community Programs with 500 Sails, effective June 6, 2022.

Raised all his life on Saipan, Roberto is the son of Andres and Dorothy Roberto. Roberto brings his passion for sailing and love for teaching to 500 Sails, having served as a Lalayak instructor to its previous cohorts. He has sailed thrice to Tinian over the past three years with renowned master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez, in order to reintroduce maritime sailing activities to the community and has sailed around Saipan in its most recent circumnavigation.

He has participated in various 500 Sails community programs including Lalayak, Dolphin Club Saipan, Peskan Taddong, and Sunday Sails.

As a graduate of Saipan Southern High School, Roberto earned his associate of arts in Liberal Arts from the Northern Marianas College and later received his bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Guam in 2015. Roberto has an extensive background in writing and social media marketing and production, having written for the Guam Daily Post, Tropical Productions, Inc, and Pacific Telestations, Inc. Roberto has written a number of plays for UOG's Fine Arts Theater, including An Act to Save a Marriage and Nobena Para San Jude. He has authored The Talisman, featured in the Local Voices: An anthology, and has written several short stories for Guam's Division of English and Applied Linguistics.

Roberto

Roberto also has a deep passion for the ocean. He grew up fishing with his dad and swimming along Saipan's beaches from Obyan Beach to the Grotto. Roberto grew up dreaming of canoes and remembers a time in first grade when a historical scholar came to his class and spoke of Chamorro canoes and their disappearance during Spanish colonization. Roberto dreamt of canoes being back on the water. When he was in college, Roberto caught wind of the building of a 47-foot Chamorro sakman, which brought him to following Mario Borja's build of Che'lu and subsequently, Pete and Emma Perez's nonprofit organization, 500 Sails.

"Becoming a formal part of this organization realizes a long time dream I've had—to contribute to the revitalization of the Marianas and her seafaring people. I'm happy to help 500 Sails develop programs that get people onto the ocean and in our canoes," said Roberto.

Over the past year, Roberto worked for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, where he supported the development and logistics of several council programs, such as the Sengebau Poetry Competition and the My Marianas Writing Contest.

Prior to his work for the Humanities Council, Roberto was a classroom teacher for Saipan Southern High School.

"Andrew has been with 500 Sails as both a participant and volunteer for many years. Previously, he has been an agent of socialization for youth on motivation and learning; he's excellent with youth and young people and he has that passion for culture and maritime traditions that we look for in our team," said Pete Perez, co-founder of 500 Sails. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-029
REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-029, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 7, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer at westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Youth summer program, employment program to open

The Youth Affairs Office under the CNMI Office of the Governor announced Friday that the department will be having a Summer Youth Program and Summer Youth Employment Program from July 6, 2022 to Aug. 19, 2022.

The goal of the Youth Affairs Office is to stay actively committed to ensuring our children and youth receive positive development and quality education during school and out-of-school time, focusing on education, career readiness, health, civic participation, youth talent, leadership, and general life skills to ensure their success in their overall growth.

In addition, the 2022 Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program is providing opportunities to youth ages 14-17 to build positive life skill development, expand career and technical experience, engage in career-oriented opportunities, and experience financial responsibility in participating in employment opportunities with local government agencies.

To register, applications will be available at the San Vicente Youth Center and the CNMI Office of the Governor's mailroom. The registration window will be active on June 27, 28, 29, and 30.

- Monday through Thursday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm
- 600 applications are available for the 2022 Governor's Youth Employment Program (ages 14 to 17 years old)
- 100 applications are available for the Youth Summer Program (ages 5 to 17 years old)
- Completed applications must be submitted at the San Vicente Youth Center or the mailroom of the CNMI Office of the Governor.

(Application pick-up will close before June 30, 2022, if all slots are filled for both applications).

Registrations will not be available online, and only available at the locations provided. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. For more information, contact (670) 235-1901 or email youthaffairs670@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Triple J Saipan not participating in appliance rebate program

The CNMI Energy Division Office would like to inform all recipients of the appliance rebate voucher program that, due to unforeseen situations preventing full participation by Triple J as a participating retailer/vendor, effective immediately, Triple J Saipan Store will no longer be accepting rebate vouchers on Saipan under the CNMI Energizing Insular Communities Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program until further notice.

Triple J Store on Tinian remains a participating retailer/vendor and will continue to accept rebate vouchers.

For additional program information or questions, contact the Division of Energy Office at 664-4480/1. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application period now open

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2022. Please visit SHEFA's new website at www.saipanshefa.com to create your own student account-apply, submit supporting documents and receive status updates. The deadline now is Sept. 1, 2022.

You must upload all your supporting documents with the application in order for your submission to go through. Again, the SHEFA website is now www.saipanshefa.com. ***(PR)***

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
WEBEX MEETING JUNE 28, 2022
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team
Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022
From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)
To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:
**DOWNLOAD SLIDES at: https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/
https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mb9c935e3baad48fbf8633bccf7f31629
You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 27637468446##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: 99C7sP7VH2$
Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, Homeless, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Interment Allowance

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-021

Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1, for Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RAESP-22-021, Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-022

Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1 for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked ***"CUC-RAESP-22-022, Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

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GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Roe has been overturned. Feel outraged, feel betrayed—then fight to get it back

In a dreaded and once-unfathomable decision, the Supreme Court on Friday overturned Roe v. Wade. It's a dark time in America as this once-revered institution has taken the rare and awful path of depriving people of their rights.

With its 5-4 decision the court abolished the constitutional right to an abortion up to the point of viability of the fetus outside the womb, forcing the nation back 50 years to a time when state legislators decided whether to allow pregnant women control over their bodies.

Or maybe the court has taken us back even further in time. Part of the justification for overturning Roe was because centuries of history indicate abortion was criminalized. "When the majority says that we must read our foundational charter as viewed at the time of ratification (except that we may also check it against the Dark Ages), it consigns women to second-class citizenship," the three dissenting justices wrote.

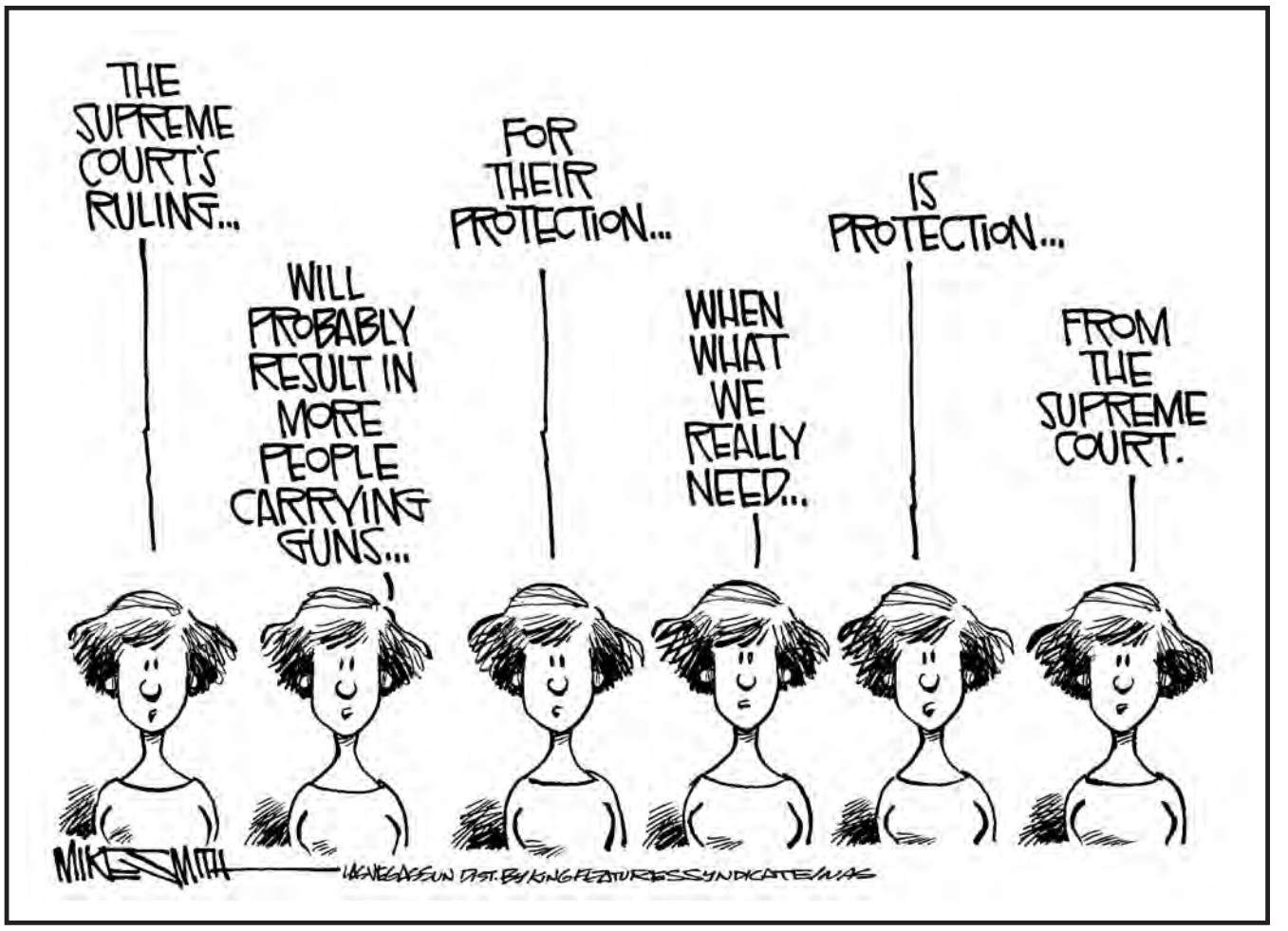
The decision was not a surprise, because a draft had been leaked earlier this year. But it's devastating nonetheless that the Supreme Court has chosen to take away a constitutional right. The repercussions will be quick and severe: 13 states have trigger laws and others have pre-Roe bans still on the books. In Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi—the state that brought the case that led to the ruling Friday—the ban will go into effect within hours of Roe being overturned.

Even if we don't return to the time of back-alley abortions, what's ahead is uncertainty. For those living in states that outlaw or severely restrict the procedure, getting an abortion will now involve traveling hundreds of miles out of state to find care—with all the attendant costs—or obtaining medical abortion pills. But obtaining the drugs through the mail might be considered a crime under these state laws and subject to prosecution. Some states are considering how to ban the pills.

As always, abortion restrictions fall heaviest on those who already have trouble accessing healthcare—people of color, people in rural areas, disabled people and those with low incomes who have less ability to pay for the procedure as well as arrange for child care and time off from work while they go to another state for abortion care.

This is not a simple matter of returning a controversial issue to the states to decide, as Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. makes it sound in his opinion. The Supreme Court is depriving people of the right to control their own bodies and

See ROE on Next Page


THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING...
WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN MORE PEOPLE CARRYING GUNS...
FOR THEIR PROTECTION...
WHEN WHAT WE REALLY NEED...
IS PROTECTION...
FROM THE SUPREME COURT.
MIKE SMITH

Abortion decision means more anger, strife in a country already divided against itself

By MARK Z. BARABAK
Los Angeles Times

Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*, focusing on politics in California and the West.*

Never before has the Supreme Court so dramatically taken away a constitutional right.

It's impossible, therefore, to know the full effect of its seismic decision overturning Roe v. Wade.

Only that life in America will grow edgier, angrier and even more contentious in a country already so deeply divided that it's more like hostile entities, red and blue, living uneasily on the same riven landmass.

Democrats hope the shock of Friday's ruling will galvanize the party's base, stirring the otherwise apathetic to vote, and also coax support from independents and even some Republicans—especially women—aggrieved at seeing the legal right to abortion vanish into air.

"Democrats needed an energizing, organizing dynamic and this provides it," said Fred Yang, a veteran Democratic pollster and strategist who is working in a number of competitive House and Senate races around the country.

The party is battling the twin headwinds of high inflation and low confidence in the Biden administration.

"We've needed something affirmative to say and an issue where we can say affirmatively we're going to protect your rights," Yang said. "This is it."

But the proof points, so far, are few and contradictory.

The first meaningful and lasting test of political consequence will come in November, when control of the House and Senate are at stake along with thousands of legislative seats and the governor's office in 36 states. Republicans seem all but certain to win the House and stand a good chance in the Senate as well.

If history holds, the GOP will also strengthen its numbers in statehouses nationwide, solidifying gains of the last two decades that resulted in looser gun laws and tougher abortion restrictions in much of the country even before the Supreme Court signaled its assent.

The 5-4 ruling Friday was not a particular surprise. A leaked draft of the decision, which closely tracked the one issued Friday, made the court's intention clear for the last several weeks.

Since then, there have been a number of congressional and legislative elections, and none suggests an inordinate turnout of Democrats or sympathizers animated by the threatened reversal of Roe v. Wade. In Texas, the lone antiabortion Democrat in the House, Henry Cuellar, scratched out a primary victory against a fellow Democrat who campaigned with strong backing from abortion rights groups.

Soon after the draft decision surfaced, a survey by NBC showed the abortion issue jumping 16 points in importance for voters compared to when the question was asked in March. In addition, it found the "enthusiasm gap" between Democrats and Republicans—that is interest in November's election—had also significantly narrowed to the benefit of Democrats.

But that is just one poll. Others show how deeply ambivalent Americans are about legalized abortion, despite the fervor expressed by the loudest and most adamant voices on either side.

In a recent survey by the Pew Research Center just about six in 10 said abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances, compared to fewer than four in 10 who said it should be illegal in all or most circumstances.

But there was plenty of gray.

More than half those who supported legal abortion felt there should be limits depending on the timing. Sizable numbers of abortion opponents said the procedure should be permitted in cases of rape or incest, or when a pregnancy "threatens the health or life of the woman."

Countless elections have shown that the voters who feel stron-

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EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Unmanned weapons of war: How war may be fought in our Pacific Ocean backyard

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

Gone are the days of a Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force that require 100% human piloting for ship driving, tactical land, and air operations. The Pentagon is headed down the path of having to adapt to preparing for war using more and more unmanned weapons of war like never before. This trend translates into weapons of the future using more and more artificial intelligence, high technology, and resources to help build out thousands of operationally-proven armed drones, unmanned aircraft, submarines, and surface ships.

The laydown of American military forces in Guam and the CNMI is predicated on the idea that war is going to be a massive hot and deadly undertaking where thousands of people, if not more, die. Perhaps the assumption that thousands will die is not entirely accurate because disabling key infrastructure nodes can and will cripple an economy, whether it is Guam, Hawaii, California or elsewhere.

Prosecution of future war will require that satellites orbiting the Earth will be fully operational and functional. If space-based networks are not fully functional and operational, 21st century war may be severely hampered.

The American Navy at it once again

The U.S. Navy has been quite adept at ensuring that it stays as relevant as possible when it comes to preparing for future warfare. The Navy has also produced major flops when it comes to constructing manned surface combat vessels over the past two decades. The Littoral Combat Ship program provides one example with ample evidence of just how bad Navy shipbuilding oversight and management can get when it comes to properly managing American taxpayer funds to build out a military surface vessel inventory and fleet.

Yet the Navy is also moving to adapt to a peer competitor environment as quickly as it can. It is now systematically building out an unmanned fleet of weapons for war. It needs it more than ever because China is already far into its military modernization and expansion work.

The Navy established an unmanned surface vessel organization intended to work with allies worldwide. The Marine Corps is working alongside the Navy on this front. Both organizations are trying to expand the digital architecture required to transform how the Navy and Marine Corps organizations train, prepare, and fight future wars. The top leaders in the Marine Corps seek to fully transform how they conduct business by 2030. Time will tell how successful current Marine Corps efforts will ultimately be.

Autonomous systems are the wave of the future

The Pentagon is doing everything it can to reconstitute and move toward autonomous unmanned systems. This is being done to further improve how the Navy and Marine Corps distribute warfighting resources. These systems are to be used in the air, sea, and land domains. Unlike traditional weapons systems, autonomous systems require software upgrades, massive and complicated computer algorithms, but not necessarily massive hardware upgrades. Unmanned autonomous systems require human involvement to fully operate as well.

Unmanned weapons systems—restated differently

The Navy and Marine Corps want to have suites of weapons that can be used, shot, and deployed from greater physical distances that have better accuracy and are faster. This is especially important in fighting in the Deep Blue Pacific Ocean continent. The reason technology and technology applications are so important is that they are key enablers that convert ideas into reality. Technological changes will also present the Pentagon with opportunities and challenges to continuously improve upon the capacity of weapons systems sensors to help and assist the Navy and Marine Corps toward being able to prosecute and win war.

The Navy and Army are using lasers to shoot down missiles. The Pentagon is moving quickly to field an array of hypersonic speed weapons platforms that have instilled greater cooperation between the Navy and Army.

Aerial drones are currently in the hands of approximately 100 countries. Drones can carry precision guided missiles and are much cheaper than buying a fancy fighter jet. Drones enable non-state actors the opportunity to inflict harm on targeted adversaries. Thus the Pentagon is incentivized to spend more and more money and focus on drone warfare, with the intent to more fully utilize, exploit and manage technological developments as they evolve.

Our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization and another opportunity to learn from the ongoing balance of power competition taking place between China and America

The China-U.S. competition is complex, nuanced, and substantial. Both the United States and China have levels of economic interdependence with each other that dissuades either country from declaring war on the other. China does billions of dollars of business with a host of American allies in Asia, while the United States continues to seek to further expand economic relationships with its constellation of allies. Both China and the United States also have nuanced diplomatic relationships with each other that emphasizes cooperation and coercion on a variety of fronts.

These complex relationships remain intact as both China and the U.S. also prepare to go to war with one another. As unmanned weapons systems proliferate, the ability of military commanders and operators to identify and track key military targets will become more and more important. Over time it will also become more important for military personnel figure out how to decide to either engage a target or not.

All these point to the need to revisit the importance of human wisdom and human decision-making limitations, especially in a future warfighting environment where humans may simply not be able to make split second decisions related to hypersonic weapons warfare. Yes, all this relates to Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and our broader western Pacific Ocean region of the world.

ROE

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allowing state politics to determine the existence of a fundamental liberty.

Roe v. Wade guaranteed the right to choose a path—to either end or continue a pregnancy. It is incalculable how much that freedom, that opportunity, that choice to control one's body shapes a person's life. And everyone, not just those who can get pregnant, should be outraged that the court would do more to ensure that people can carry a concealed gun in public than defend the right of Americans to make personal reproductive decisions.

The three liberal justices who dissented in this decision—Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan—ended their opinion with this heartbreaking coda: "With sorrow—for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent."

So be angry about what the court did. Feel betrayed that Brett M. Kavanaugh, Neil M. Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett all said during their Senate confirmation hearings that Roe was a precedent, which many took to mean they wouldn't seek to overturn it.

The conservatives on the court have forced this nation back to an age that most Americans don't remember well, if at all. The work now falls on this generation to restore the right to abortion and personal freedom.

What abortion rights advocates are doing—and what everyone should be focused on—is how to make abortion accessible across the nation in a post-Roe world. Dozens of organizations across the country are raising moneyto help needy people without means to travel for an abortion.

A number of states have introduced motions to enshrine the right to abortion in their constitutions. California is one of them. Legislators here have also introduced bills to help fund abortions and thwart other states' efforts to criminalize any of their residents when they seek abortions in this state.

The Biden administration is exploring options to help women get abortions as well—including declaring a public health emergency which might protect doctors in states that allow abortion when they provide the procedure to people from states that don't allow it. The Food and Drug Administration already allows abortion pills to be shipped to a person after a telehealth consultation. There is a move afoot to get the Food and Drug Administration to declare that its federal authorization of the use and shipment of the drugs nationwide overrides any state trying to ban the sale or receipt of them. Sadly, the Women's Health Protection Act, a federal bill that would ensure the right to an abortion, was voted down in the Senate recently.

This is just the beginning of a battle over reproductive rights in America, and possibly for other rights as well. In his concurring opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that the court should reconsider landmark decisions on contraception, sodomy laws and same-sex marriage. If that seems unthinkable, consider how unlikely it seemed even a year ago that Roe v. Wade would fall.

Dark times, indeed.

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ABORTION

From Page 8

gest about abortion—and especially those who are passionate one way or the other—are already likely to cast ballots and are clear in their minds about whether they support the Democratic or Republican stance.

The key, then, are those with somewhat mixed feelings, the casual voters who might otherwise stay home, and those who are only loosely aligned with one party or the other. The latter are the ones who tend to decide elections, and they typically make up their minds based on whatever issue or concerns move them at a given time, not a set of deeply held convictions.

Charlie Cook, a nonpartisan analyst, has spent decades studying campaigns and elections at a granular level and he, for one, is skeptical Friday's decision will drastically change a political climate dominated by issues—soaring prices, pain at the gas pump, economic anxiety—that work to the benefit of Republicans.

"If this were a level playing field, it might have greater impact," Cook said. "But when you've got the economic situation we've got, with a majority—in some cases a big majority—expecting a recession, high inflation, interest rates shooting up, it's hard for abortion or guns or Jan. 6 to cut through all this.

"It's like Democrats have dug themselves into a 10-foot hole," Cook said. "Abortion can fill a foot of it. Jan. 6 can fill a foot. But they're still in a deep hole."

When liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died just weeks before the November 2020 presidential election, the Supreme Court was thrust—for a very brief time—to the fore of the political debate. Democrats warned her replacement by Amy Coney Barrett would lock in the court's conservative majority and guarantee the reversal of Roe.

Then, as now, they expected the abortion issue to electrify the party base and send Democrats surging to the polls. But surveys taken after the election found scarcely more than one in 10 voters cited the Supreme Court as the most important factor in their decision, and a majority of them voted to reelect President Trump.

One of the biggest questions following the Supreme Court's ruling is whether the actual reversal of Roe v. Wade will matter more to voters than its theoretical reversal, spurring the massive turnout that Democrats are hoping for and Republicans fear.

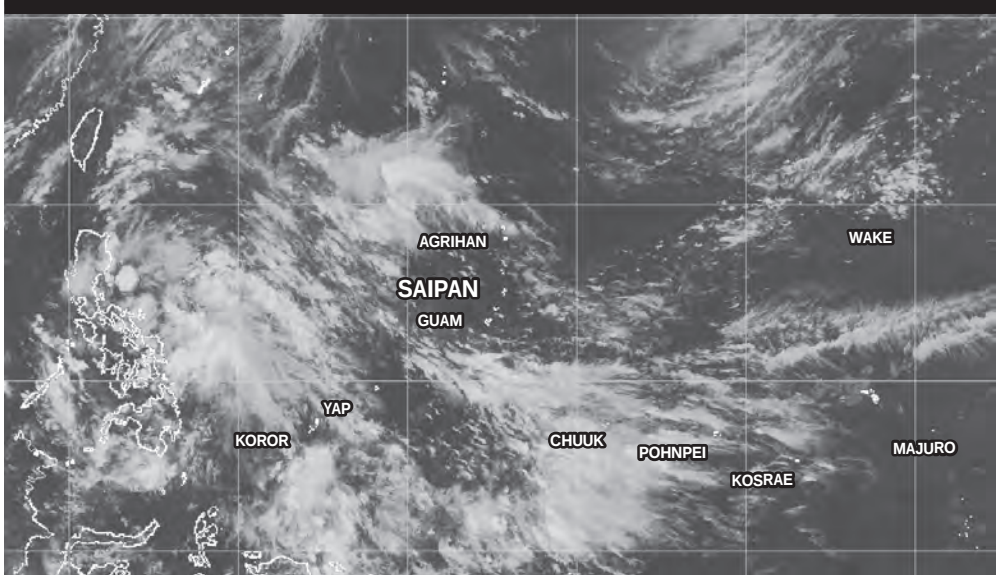
That—not the raw emotions of this moment—will determine not only what happens in November, but where the country goes from here.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny,	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	Partly sunny.	Mostly cloudy,
86º 75º	86º 77º	87º 76º	88º 79º	87º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:16 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Northern Marianas waters and scattered showers moving through the Guam waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast, mixed with some wind waves from the east-southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:00 AM	5:21 PM	-
Tuesday	4:46 AM	6:14 PM	-
Wednesday	5:35 AM	7:05 PM	-
Thursday	6:26 AM	7:54 PM	-
Friday	7:18 AM	8:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	93° / 77°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	64° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 72°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	55° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
New York	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	97° / 79°
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 73°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:32 AM	High Tide	1.45
5:23 AM	Low Tide	1.94
1:00 PM	High Tide	0.02
8:21 PM	Low Tide	1.91

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

AT HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS HEARING ON DOC BUDGET

Manglona says promising jobs to individuals needs to be stopped

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez discusses DOC's budget request before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee last Thursday. To Villagomez's left are DOC administration manager officer Rita Iglecias and DOC director Georgia Cabrera. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona questioned Thursday the Department of Corrections proceeding with a corrections academy for 39 cadets without requesting approval for full time employee positions from the Legislature.

"We need to stop this practice of promising jobs to individuals without knowing whether they are secured or not," said Manglona during a hearing for DOC's budget for fiscal year 2023.

At the start of the hearing, Manglona noted that despite the administration's current budget submission only funding for personnel, they are expecting a revised budget submission come July 1 to address some of the operational needs to all agencies.

He pointed out that DOC has a significant amount of new vacancies and that it is his understanding that there's currently a corrections academy going on.

DOC submitted a budget request of $8.4 million to cover personnel and operations, with $5.1 million allocated to personnel and about $3.2 million for operations to include $834,000 in utilities.

Manglona said, however, that utilities will be covered through a separate account for the Executive Branch being paid out of the Secretary of Finance.

Manglona said that DOC asked for 127 full-time posts and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has proposed 142, which is an additional 15 positions.

DOC Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez said he understands that the governor's proposal is short of their department's request but they fully support of the governor's submission.

"I have been assured that assistance will be available as needed," Villagomez said.

The commissioner informed the committee that DOC has started 9th Cycle Corrections Academy with 39 cadets. He said the academy is being done with the collaboration of the Northern Marianas College, Workforce Investment Agency, Office of the Governor, and DOC. The academy started on May 31, 2022 and will end in the first part of October 2022.

Manglona noted that the administration's budget proposal under Volume 1 shows 51 vacant positions for corrections officer 1, and that it looks like all of these were budgeted at least 50% to 80% on the general fund side.

Villagomez said they came up with 40 cadets, but one had to step down after failing a drug test. The commissioner said they can have another academy after this cycle.

As to Manglona's question if the 39 is still not sufficient for DOC's current operation, Villagomez said that, like any department such as DOC, having more manpower is better.

Villagomez said they currently have 19 vacancies for corrections officers that were all vacated in the past fiscal year. The commissioner said Torres assured that he will find a way to help DOC with their manpower shortage.

Manglona pointed out that the governor does not have the power to grant these FTEs, as it's the Legislature's power to do that.

Manglona said any changes to the budget for this fiscal year has to go through the Legislature and has to be approved by the Legislature.

The chair said these FTEs that DOC is asking for has to be approved by the Legislature. "And when we're putting cadets in academy today, it's like we're giving them false hope [but] they may not be accepted by the Legislature," the lawmaker said.

Manglona questioned why a request hasn't been sent to the Legislature to approve these FTEs, plus a request to ensure that these cadets are secured, will be civil service employees, as oppose to contracted employees.

"When funds run out, you don't get paid, and so on and so forth," he said.

DOC director Georgia Cabrera said that, as Villagomez has stated, the cadets are expected to graduate in October. By then, this budget should be passed. Cabrera said it's probably a gamble where they have these 39 cadets and then once the budget is approved with the FTEs that they're asking for, then that means they are given the FTEs.

"If you decide to remove some of the FTEs, please reconsider and give us what we asked [for]. In the governor's proposal, he's asking for more FTEs. Just give us that," she said.

Manglona said the common practice is for DOC to request for FTEs from the Legislature. "When they approve it for the next fiscal year budget, then that's when you start the academy. But jumping the gun and hiring these 39 new cadets without the guarantee that they have these funding positions next fiscal year, I'm trying to see what's the reasoning behind that decision," Manglona said.

Villagomez said they did mention about the shortage of manpower at DOC at the same budget hearing last year.

Since the Legislature didn't approve it, why did Villagomez go ahead and proceed with that academy? asked Manglona. Villagomez replied that they are still in the budget process and are reiterating that request.

"But you've already put 39 cadets into academy not knowing whether they'd be secured," Manglona said.

DOC administration manager Rita Iglecias said they were assured that assistance will be provided by the administration and that Office of Personnel and Budget also recommended that they put in all new FTEs to increase DOC's manpower level.

Manglona asked if the cadets are under the impression that their job is temporary as they're not civil service positions yet. Manglona said the corrections officer position is a civil service position, but DOC is taking these new cadets in as temporary hires under whatever funding—whether it be American Rescue Plan Act or other sources—that is not guaranteed.

"When the funds run out, again we're robbing Peter to pay Paul or taking from other agencies that also need these funding to pay for their personnel," he said.

Manglona said they want to eliminate overtime and provide DOC with the needed manpower, but DOC needs to request the Legislature for these positions.

Manglona said the Llegislature has the power to amend the budget and include these FTEs if there is funding for it to ensure that these employees are safe.

"We're giving hope to these cadets, not knowing what their outcome, what their pay will be in the next fiscal year. We continue to temporarily hire and then put a fire under the Legislature to hire these cadets, because they already went through the academy," he said.

MCS HONORS LIST

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 4th Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade
Aubrey Matsunaga
Benz Elliott Santos
Brayden Kane Taguchi
Farrell Dela Santa
Ines Maratita
Jayven Xander Sablan
Jesse Joseph
Gregory Palacios
Ji Yoo Lee
Leilani Soledad Castro
Lloyd Manuel Sencio
Mika Backe
Mya Joy Manibusan
Rockson Cabrera
Shinely Vincent
Sho Sasamoto
Sumai Francine Castro
Vincent Salavaria

2nd Grade
Aiden Ray Cepeda
Aiesha Sadie Camacho
Aleaya
Taimanao Bermudes
Chloe Nicole Arnold
Crystin Pangelinan
Ezekiel Ma'Nu'l
Villagomez
Felix Ryan Tomokane
Gabriella Jo Tenorio
Jake Hiram Maratita
Kaiya Pangelinan
Scott Jonathan Muna
Stella Choi
Yuna Yu

3rd Grade
Aiyana Pangelinan
Alesa Ilmova
Anah Bellah Guerrero
Brayden Luke Repata
Chloe Jane Militante
Clarise Garamonte
Erika Cuyugan
Friella Huanne
Dela Santa
Ivan Fernand Fortades
Jake Peter Deleon
Guerrero Jr.
Jonathan Zhang
Kendra Camacho
Kirk Ivan De Perio
Logan Propst
Madden Anthony
DeleonGuerrero
Neia Dolana Norey-
emal Tagabuel
Qoheleth Thomas Blas
Scarlett Shae Salas
Sera Guerrero
Vince Angelo Estella

4th Grade
Advika Vallabhaneni
Amber Faith Militante
Ava Carmina Sablan
Cali Jade Cabrera
Chloe Anne Marie
Matsunaga
Chloe Cepeda
Daniel Kang
Ezaela Pa-
trice Camacho
Jeongwoo Choi
Ji Woo Lee
Karl Angelo Diaz
Kathleen Cano
Kennani Vinae
Villagomez
Ki Eun Lee
Krish Devjani
Lydia Xian
Miana Dolo-
res Delacruz
Mikayla Guerrero
Paige Kanae Muna
Victoria Eve Terlaje
Von Derick Lauron

5th Grade
Angelo Li
Anna Lee
Bentley James Albuen
David Jo-
seph Camacho
Donald Laurence Am-
wolschigh Tagabuel
Hyun Woo Cho
James Matsumoto
Kainoa Tenorio
Leighton Tomo-
kane-Tenorio
Logan Matsumoto
Maria Guerrero
Mia Guerrero
Miguel Garret Mendoza
Nea Zoe Dandan
O-Ren Fumi-
yo Sasamoto
Ryusei Asai
Xin Lei (Steven) Song
Zian Mi-
chael Obnimaga

6th Grade
Alexia Rubia
Audrey Bansil
Cecilia Ramon
Villagomez
Ciana Lei Demapan
Cyril Michael
Pangilinan
Do Geon Kim
Dylan Jacob Camacho
Jessi Chen
John Ellama
Julius Sheu
Kayla Larson
Layla Carmen
Ann Palacios
Mary Shelley De-
leon Guerrero
Remiegem Melchor

7th Grade
Henry Yeom
Hope McQuay
Iris Maleia Rasa
Jee In Lee
Jose Clarence Tenorio
Josephine Lopez
Naomi Skye
Matsumoto
Nicole Angela
Pangilinan
Sage Ramon
Villagomez
Sarah Angela Melchor
Seungwoo Choi

8th Grade
Anthony Chris-
tian Rivera
Arwen Hannah
Bartolata
Asa Backe
Ayanna Faith
Matsumoto
Camron Zavier
Pangelinan
Chae Eun Kim
Elise Maratita
Emmanuel Pontiveros
Gavril Myles Santiago
Jessiana Tenorio
Jieun Kwon
Kate Nicole Cabalbag
Kayli Ari Salas
Leonard
Jake Regalado
Mikayla Castro
Mya Pangelinan
Oscar Bien Buenaflor
Patricia Denielle Lugtu
Seunghee Jeon
Victor Nash Santos
William Matthew Cano

9th Grade
Alvin Hong
Ari James Toskas
Chealzka Navarro
Chloe Alexis Camacho
Irie Kane Camacho
Jaeyun Jung
Jay Francis Domi-
nic Pineda
Jee Woo Son
Laizza Vianca Mallari
Malina Rose Tenorio
Seungun Ha
Tricia Anton-
nette Palacios
Vayden Matagolai

10th Grade
Brandon Lee
Devin Jordan Propst
Eunkyu (Joey) Hong
Jerry Chen
Juliana Vergara
Kriselle Bryana
Mitzy Drilon
Leo Bang
Leyonne Alfred
Tolentino
Maria Yoshie Torres
Marini Millo
Minki Jung
One An
Paul Angelo Santos
Ruben Guerrero
Sanghyeok Lee
Tyana Kisha Tesiro
Xin Wen Jin

11th Grade
Brent Ortizo
Brissa Hunter
Clint Allen Irang
Donnie James Jr.
Militante
Erin Frink
Francine Mo-
nique Albuen
Gerald Jr. De-
leon Guerrero
Jazmyn
Phoeme Lopez
Jill Anne Marie Mallari
Kyla Monique Cabrera
Leunyce Regalado
Manuel Jacinto
Pangelinan
Mathew Adrian Sablan
William Xue
Yurihana
Rosa Sasamoto

12th Grade
Aleia Santos
Christian Guerrero
Fiona Marielle Bucalig
Ha'ani Seman
Hannah Lacap
Hyunkyu Park
Jaehoon Son
Jefferey Sheu
Jeremiah Jerome Diaz
Jihwan Ryu
Joshua Dono-
van Tenorio
JunBeom Kim
Kaia Travilla
Larry Dean Cruz
Monique Laura Duenas
Raesyl Gerard Solis
Regina Huerto
Richard Jesus
Villagomez
Richard Ramon Steele
Robin Kyle Alvarez
Theresa Rose
Schweiger
Vaughn Andrei Mallari
William Nathaniel Ano
Yu Jeong Son

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.6or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade
Ariah Kadyn De-
leon Guerrero
Arielle Aniciete
Brian Anthony Reyes
Eduardo Vicente Diaz II
Jeter Yamada
Miriam Flores
Sophia Reese Arriola

2nd Grade
Aycee Ri-
anne Quitugua
Gino Marvin De-
leon Guerrero
Jace Pangelinan
Jamara Jayde
Cabrera-Sablan
Jameson Slayer
Maven Borja
Sinako Annette Lei-
yangscheng Tagabuel
Vialanni Maleigh Alexis

3rd Grade
Aliyani Basa
Chloe-Mae Taimanao
Ian James De Leon
John Damien Sablan
Liam Sablan
Oliveeah Julee Kaipat
Vinae Jaydene Pua
Yu Ma

4th Grade
Adelle Jane Kautz
Francisco Joseph Cruz
Franko Ray Tudela
Nirvana Wolf
Riley Cruz
Talina Aguon-Mcclure

5th Grade
Aaron Wu
Bella Deleon Guerrero
Caleb John Aldan
Caydince Raine Masga
Elijah Dela Cruz
Gonshiro Pedro
Jose Sasamoto
Jaden Shyne Fujihira
Jaze Enzo San Nicolas
Joey Claude Mostales
Leonmar Jae-
don Regalado
Seungjae Ha
Trisha Juliana Abuan

6th Grade
Arthur Deliva
Aubrey Rae Quitugua
Aya Santos
Cassidee Jolina Flores
Gabriella Aundrea Inos
Jadine Nicole
Pangelinan
Janessa Fran-
cine Arriola
Jayson Jared Tagabuel
Jener Franz Pineda
Ju Hwan Hyun
Katherine Hwang
Siwoo Lee

7th Grade
Christopher James
Dela Cruz
Enzo Umeki Sasamoto
Jeffrey Concepcion
Juliana Magan Subang
Justin Mallari
Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon
Maya McQuay
Patricia Matsumoto
Patrick Guerrero
Rafael Elijah De Belen
Serenity Anne Fujihira
Stephanie
Joyce Sevilla
Stephen Yeom
Yukiko Kiyo-
mi Sasamoto

8th Grade
Andrick Poon
Annieskha Arreza
Heleyna Frielle
Dela Santa
Jasmine Meleana
Deleon Guerrero
Kern Han
Lance Jericho Javier
Michael Mercado Jr
Mikaehla
Paige Mendoza
Nyla Deleon Guerrero
Quince Eman-
uele Tizon
Sophia Tenorio
Therese Joy Ogo
Yeeun Oh
Zion Jude Cabrera

9th Grade
Arturo Rodrigo Travilla
Audrein Jennifer Mallari
Chelsy Anne Reyes
Dylan Santos
Earl Pete Jacob
Lacandazo
Enjing Jin
Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto
Jada Chang
Katie Gah-Eun Yoon
Kimberly Villegas
Lyssa Rae Steele
Maili Peter
Manuel Pamintuan
Mia Ysabela Abuan
MinJun Ha
Nevaeh Sky Taisacan
Nicole Erin Mariano
Princes Amanda Habal
Rafael Mykel Gozon
Ranier Joy Solis
Sihyeon Choi
Yunseong Seol

10th Grade
Angel Li
Angel Lou Buensalido
Avah Marie Torres
Earle Gabreil
San Nicolas
Elisa Ellen Blanco
Ethan Jude Militante
Ierlyma Nicole
Deleon Guerrero
Jazmin Jay Tagabuel
Jhazmyn Nhi-
cole Valiente
Kevin Jia Qi Bao
Leland Isaiah
Deleon Guerrero
Miguel Nathan
Bartolata
Miguel Villegas
Natalie Gabrielle Ano
Palikkun George
Paul William Camacho
Tian Jiao Xu
Tian Si Xu
Tiana Torres
XianJun (Jerry) Zeng

11th Grade
Dahyun Shim
Derek Mori-
taro Sasamoto
Dohyun Lim
Kayannie Ilifighar Peter
Kina Dela Cruz
Leopoldo Naraja
Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
O'Hane Borja
Raeka Shereen Lantin
Serafin De-
leon Guerrero
Sienna Jade Muna
Sophia Mi-
chelle Cornelio

12th Grade
Ariel Morales
Chelsea Olouachel
Cory Lee
David Li
Gayle Noreen Vidal
Hyun Namkung
Hyunjun Kim
Jedric Nathaniel Villar
Jimin Kwon
Karvin Fernando
Kiana Lei Propst
Margarita Leighan-
na Terlaje
Michael Can-
ice Camacho
Sajj Pandey
Vidal Jose Sablan ***(PR)***

Business

Abortion ruling thrusts companies into divisive arena

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and HALELUYA HADERO
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

The Supreme Court's decision to end the nation's constitutional protections for abortion has catapulted businesses of all types into the most divisive corner of politics.

Some companies that stayed silent last month—when a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito was leaked to Politico—spoke up for the first time Friday, including The Walt Disney Company, which said it will reimburse employees who must travel out of state to get an abortion.

Facebook parent Meta, American Express, Bank of America and Goldman Sachs also said they would cover employee travel costs while others like Apple, Starbucks, Lyft and Yelp reiterated previous announcements taking similar action. Outdoor clothing maker Patagonia went so far as to post on LinkedIn Friday that it would provide "training and bail for those who peacefully protest for reproductive justice" and time off to vote.

But of the dozens of big businesses that The Associated Press reached out to Friday, many like McDonald's, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, General Motors, Tyson and Marriott did not respond. Arkansas-based Walmart—the nation's largest employer with a good portion of its stores in states that will immediately trigger abortion bans following the Friday's Supreme Court ruling—also kept quiet.

Meanwhile, the Business Roundtable, an organization that represents some of the nation's most powerful companies, said it "does not have a position on the merits of the case."

A lot is at stake for companies, many of which have publicly pledged to promote women's equality and advancement in the workplace. For those in states with restrictive abortion laws, they could now face big challenges in attracting college-educated workers who can easily move around.

Luis von Ahn, the CEO of the language app Duolingo, sent a tweet Friday aimed at lawmakers in Pennsylvania, where the company is headquartered: "If PA makes abortion illegal, we won't be able to attract talent and we'll have to grow our offices elsewhere."

Inflation sparks global wave of protests for higher pay, aid

Truck drivers protest against the high price of fuel in Madrid, Spain, on March 25, 2022. AP

By AYA BATRAWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rising food costs. Soaring fuel bills. Wages that are not keeping pace. Inflation is plundering people's wallets, sparking a wave of protests and workers' strikes around the world.

This week alone saw protests by the political opposition in Pakistan, nurses in Zimbabwe, unionized workers in Belgium, railway workers in Britain, Indigenous people in Ecuador, hundreds of U.S. pilots and some European airline workers. Sri Lanka's prime minister declared an economic collapse Wednesday after weeks of political turmoil.

Economists say Russia's war in Ukraine amplified inflation by further pushing up the cost of energy and prices of fertilizer, grains and cooking oils as farmers struggle to grow and export crops in one of the world's key agricultural regions.

As prices rise, inflation threatens to exacerbate inequalities and widen the gap between billions of people struggling to cover their costs and those who are able to keep spending.

"We are not all in this together," said Matt Grainger, head of inequality policy at antipoverty organization Oxfam. "How many of the richest even know what a loaf of bread costs? They don't really, they just absorb the prices."

Oxfam is calling on the Group of 7 leading industrialized nations, which are holding their annual summit this weekend in Germany, to provide debt relief to developing economies and to tax corporations on excess profits.

"This isn't just a standalone crisis. It's coming off the back of an appalling pandemic that fueled increased inequality worldwide," Grainger said. "I think we will see more and more protests."

The demonstrations have caught the attention of governments, which have responded to soaring consumer prices with support measures like expanded subsidies for utility bills and cuts to fuel taxes. Often, that offers little relief because energy markets are volatile. Central banks are trying to ease inflation by raising interest rates.

Meanwhile, striking workers have pressured employers to engage in talks on raising wages to keep up with rising prices.

Eddie Dempsey, a senior official with Britain's Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, which brought U.K. train services to a near standstill with strikes this week, said there are going to be more demands for pay increases across other sectors.

Bangladesh marks opening of country's longest bridge

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday celebrated the opening of the country's longest bridge, which took eight years to build amid setbacks involving political conflict and corruption allegations.

The 6.51-kilometer (4.04-mile) bridge spanning the Padma River cost an estimated $3.6 billion and was paid for with domestic funds after the World Bank and other global lending agencies declined to finance the project following a graft scandal involving a Canadian construction company.

The bridge, which will open to the public on Sunday, will slash the distance between the capital, Dhaka, and Bangladesh's second largest seaport, Mongla, by 100 kilometers (62 miles).

"The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh. It encapsulates our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance," Hasina said at a ceremony in Mawa, about 31 kilometers (19 miles) southwest of Dhaka.

While not directly part of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, the bridge was built by the China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd. and is seen by Beijing as a milestone for cooperation with Bangladesh, according to a statement by China's Ambassador Li Jiming.

The China Railway Group has said the Padma Bridge will later feature a rail network that connects with other Belt and Road projects and will serve as an important link between China and a pan-Asian rail network.

Economists say the Padma Bridge will increase Bangladesh's gross domestic product by an additional 1.3% per year, adding to robust growth projections from the Asian Development Bank that predict Bangladesh's $465 billion economy will grow by 6.9% in 2021-22, and 7.1% in 2022-23.

Jackie Marati retires from Bank of Guam

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The Bank of Guam board, management and staff announced Friday the retirement of Jacqueline "Jackie" A. Marati, who is the bank's senior vice president, chief corporate social responsibility officer, after nearly 23 years of service.

Marati

Marati first joined the Bank's Corporate Banking Group in 1999. Since then, she has held positions of special assistant to the president for Tony Leon Guerrero before heading the bank's marketing, human resources, communications, and public relations areas. For the last few years, Marati has overseen the bank's Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. Fueled by her passion to give back to the island communities served by the bank, she has led several international award-winning Bank of Guam projects: the bank's Year in Review, Annual Calendar, and Founder's Day of Giving.

Marati, an island daughter, is a graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam (salutatorian) and received her bachelor's degree from Vassar College. Other educational accolades include numerous executive leadership programs at Dartmouth, Stanford, Wharton and Northwestern universities, and the Pacific Coast Banking School. Marati served as the president of the Guam Bankers Association and is a founding board member of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce. Marati also served as the chief administrative officer with the Guam International Airport Authority. She remains the only Accredited Airport Executive by the American Association of Airport Executives.

In addition to her role with the bank and in line with her passion to serve, Marati currently sits on the boards of Guam Cancer Care, USO Advisory, UOG Center for Island Sustainability (chairman), The Employers Council, and has previously served on the boards of The Make a Wish Foundation, Tourism Education Council, Pacific Islanders in Communications, St. Anthony and Academy of Our Lady. She is the recipient of the Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by Pope Benedict, Seven Seals Award by the ESGR and was inducted as a laureate to the Academy of Our Lady of Guam Hall of Fame. She also was awarded Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers (Guam).

"Over her career with Bank of Guam, Jackie has made a genuine impact on how the bank has grown and developed our community outreach, sustainability and financial empowerment efforts. We are grateful for the work she has done, but most importantly the relationships she has established and nurtured within the organization and in the community. We know Jackie's commitment to excellence in social responsibility and sustainability is steadfast and that her journey is far from over. The board of directors, management, staff and we, her Bank of Guam familia, wish her the very best in her next chapters," said Joaquin P. LG. Cook, president and chief executive officer of the bank. ***(PR)***

Nation

Abortion foes, supporters map next moves after Roe reversal

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—A Texas group that helps women pay for abortions halted its efforts Saturday while evaluating its legal risk under a strict state ban. Mississippi's only abortion clinic continued to see patients while awaiting a 10-day notice that will trigger a ban. Elected officials across the country vowed to take action to protect women's access to reproductive health care, and abortion foes promised to take the fight to new arenas.

A day after the Supreme Court's bombshell ruling overturning Roe v. Wade ended the constitutional right to abortion, emotional protests and prayer vigils turned to resolve as several states enacted bans and both supporters and opponents of abortion rights mapped out their next moves.

In Texas, Cathy Torres, organizing manager for Frontera Fund, a group that helps pay for abortions, said there is a lot of fear and confusion in the Rio Grande Valley near the U.S.-Mexico border, where many people are in the country without legal permission.

That includes how the state's abortion law, which bans the procedure from conception, will be enforced. Under the law, people who help patients get abortions can be fined and doctors who perform them could face life in prison.

"We are a fund led by people of color, who will be criminalized first," Torres said, adding that abortion funds like hers that have paused operations hope to find a way to safely restart. "We just really need to keep that in mind and understand the risk."

Tyler Harden, Mississippi director for Planned Parenthood Southeast, said she spent Friday and Saturday making sure people with impending appointments at the state's only abortion clinic—which featured in the Supreme Court case but is not affiliated with Planned Parenthood—know they don't have to cancel them right away. Abortions can still take place until 10 days after the state attorney general publishes a required administrative notice.

AP
Abortion-rights activist rally at the Indiana Statehouse following Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Saturday, June 25, 2022 in Indianapolis.

Mississippi will ban the procedure except for pregnancies that endanger the woman's life or those caused by rape reported to law enforcement. The Republican speaker of the Mississippi House, Philip Gunn, said during a news conference Friday that he would oppose adding an exception for incest. "I believe that life begins at conception," Gunn said.

Harden said she has been providing information about funds that help people travel out of state to have abortions. Many in Mississippi already were doing so even before the ruling, but that will become more difficult now that abortions have ended in neighboring states like Alabama. Right now Florida is the nearest "safe haven" state, but Harden said, "we know that that may not be the case for too much longer."

At the National Right to Life convention in Atlanta, a leader within the anti-abortion group warned attendees Saturday that the Supreme Court's decision ushers in "a time of great possibility and a time of great danger."

Randall O'Bannon, the organization's director of education and research, encouraged activists celebrate their victories but stay focused and continue working on the issue. Specifically, he called out medication taken to induce abortion.

"With Roe headed for the dustbin of history, and states gaining the power to limit abortions, this is where the battle is going to be played out over the next several years," O'Bannon said. "The new modern menace is a chemical or medical abortion with pills ordered online and mailed directly to a woman's home."

Biden signs landmark gun measure, says 'lives will be saved'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Time is of the essence. Lives will be saved," he said in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims he has met, the president said, "Their message to us was, 'Do something.' How many times did we hear that? 'Just do something. For God's sake, just do something.' Today we did."

The House gave final approval Friday, following Senate passage Thursday, and Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe.

"Today we say, 'More than enough,'" Biden said. "It's time, when it seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential."

The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

The president called it "a historic achievement."

Most of its $13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programs and aid schools, which have been targeted in Newtown, Connecticut, and Parkland, Florida, and elsewhere in mass shootings.

Biden said the compromise hammered out by a bipartisan group of senators from both parties "doesn't do everything I want" but "it does include actions I've long called for that are going to save lives."

"I know there's much more work to do, and I'm never going to give up, but this is a monumental day," said the president, who was joined by his wife, Jill, a teacher, for the signing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 1 slain, 2 wounded in Illinois warehouse shooting

BOLINGBROOK, Ill. (AP)—One person has been killed and two others wounded in a shooting Saturday at an automotive interior products warehouse in suburban Chicago. Bolingbrook police responded about 6:25 a.m. to reports of the shooting at the WeatherTech facility, Capt. Anthony Columbus told WLS-TV. The suspected shooter fled the building, but was found about 9:25 a.m. and taken into custody, police said. The victims were taken to hospitals where one later died, police said. Another was in critical condition and the third was treated and released.

Jury awards $21M to family of pregnant teen shot by police

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A federal jury awarded $21 million to the family of a pregnant teen who was shot and killed by undercover police officers in Northern California five years ago, attorneys said. Elena Mondragon was a passenger in a BMW pulling out of a Hayward apartment complex when an unmarked van filled with Fremont police officers tried to cut it off in March 2017, according to a complaint filed by the teen's family. At the time, Fremont police said the BMW's driver, who was apparently wanted by police, had rammed the car into the van. Police opened fire and fatally wounded Mondragon, who was a passenger. She was 16 and in her first trimester of pregnancy.

Police: 5-month-old girl in car fatally shot in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—A 5-month-old girl was shot to death while in the rear of a car in a neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. The infant, who was identified as Cecilia Thomas, was struck in the head Friday evening when shots were fired from another vehicle in the South Shore neighborhood, according to police and the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. Cecilia was taken to a hospital where she later died. A 41-year-old man in another vehicle was in good condition at a hospital after suffering a gunshot wound near his eye, Chicago police said. No arrests have been made, and authorities have provided no details on what led to the shooting or how it happened. Police said Saturday that they did not have any updates.

IN LOVING MEMORY

†WILLIAM ALLEN SIZEMORE

SEPTEMBER 11, 1933 - JUNE 14, 2022

In his new life, he now joins his wife
†Trinidad "Mako" Sonoda Sizemore

The memories of our beloved "Pop" will forever live in the hearts of his children:
Margaret Sizemore & Mark Cook
William Sizemore Jr. & Dr. Liane Mizgala
Cyndi Sizemore & Carno Johnson
Sheryl Sizemore & Jude Hofschneider
Ann Sizemore
Allen Sizemore
Joseph Sizemore & Dong Rong Sizemore
Jacqueline Sizemore & Alfonso Masga
Douglas Brennan
Qiang Lao & Che Zhu
Cai Lao

He will also be missed by his 28 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, his siblings, his brothers and sisters in laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, & friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Church at 6 pm, except for Sundays and Wednesdays, where they are being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9:30 am and 6 pm respectively.

On Friday July 1, Pop will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9 am for Responso Service and Holy Rosary followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am.

Please join us in Prayers,
The Family

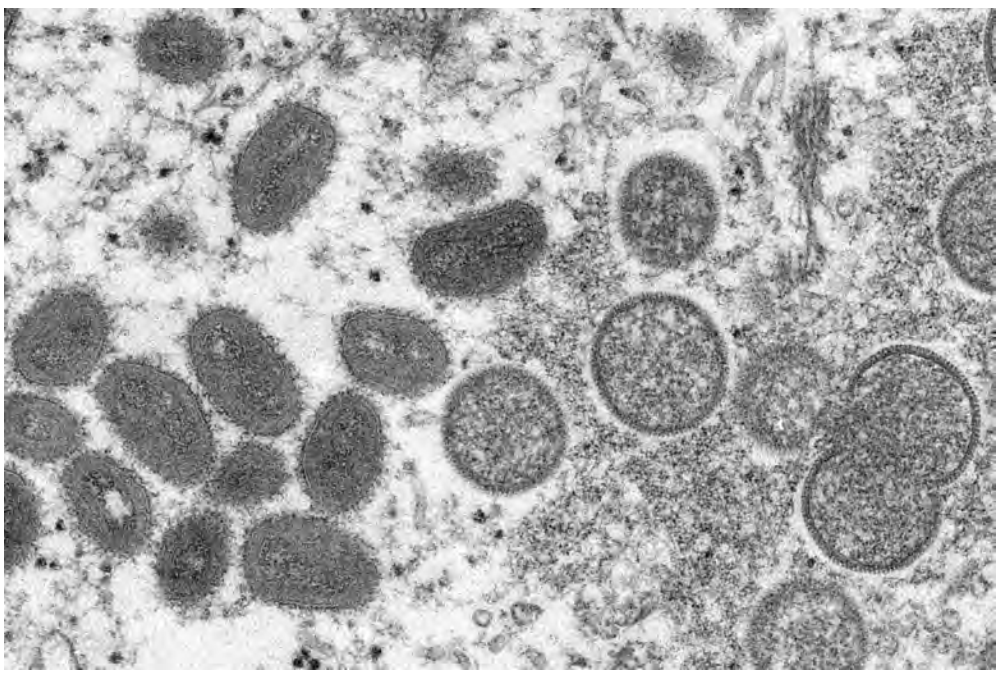
HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be;
So he put his arms around you;
And whispered, "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away;
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay,
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

WHO panel: Monkeypox not a global emergency 'at this stage'



AP

This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak.

LONDON (AP)—The World Health Organization said the escalating monkeypox outbreak in more than 50 countries should be closely monitored but does not warrant being declared a global health emergency.

In a statement Saturday, a WHO emergency committee said many aspects of the outbreak were "unusual" and acknowledged that monkeypox—which is endemic in some African countries—has been neglected for years.

"While a few members expressed differing views, the committee resolved by consensus to advise the WHO director-general that at this stage the outbreak should be determined to not constitute" a global health emergency, WHO said in a statement.

WHO nevertheless pointed to the "emergency nature" of the outbreak and said controlling its spread requires an "intense" response.

The committee said the outbreak should be "closely monitored and reviewed after a few weeks." But it would recommend a re-assessment before then if certain new developments emerge—such as cases among sex workers; spread to other countries or within countries that have already had cases; increased severity of cases; or an increasing rate of spread.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreysus convened the emergency committee on Thursday after expressing concern about the epidemic of monkeypox in countries that haven't previously reported the disease.

"What makes the current outbreak especially concerning is the rapid, continuing spread into new countries and regions and the risk of further, sustained transmission into vulnerable populations including people that are immunocompromised, pregnant women and children," the WHO chief said.

Monkeypox has sickened people for decades in central and west Africa, but until last month, the disease had not been known to cause significant outbreaks in multiple countries at the same time and involving people with no travel links to the continent.

Declaring a global health emergency means that a health crisis is an "extraordinary" event requiring a globally-managed response and that a disease is at high risk of spilling across borders. WHO previously made similar declarations for diseases including COVID-19, Ebola in Congo and West Africa, Zika in Brazil and the ongoing effort to wipe out polio.

The emergency declaration mostly serves as a plea to draw more global resources and attention to an outbreak. Past announcements have had mixed impact, given that WHO is largely powerless when trying to convince countries to act.

WHO said this week it has confirmed more than 3,200 monkeypox infections in about 40 countries that haven't previously reported the disease. The vast majority of cases are in men who are gay, bisexual or have sex with other men and more than 80% of the cases are in Europe.

A leading WHO adviser said last month the spike in cases in Europe was likely tied to sexual activity by men at two raves in Spain and Belgium, speculating that its appearance in the gay and bisexual community was a "random event." British officials have said most cases in the U.K. involve men who reported having sex with other men in venues such as saunas and sex clubs.

Scientists warn that anyone in close, physical contact with someone infected with monkeypox or their clothing or bedsheets is at risk of catching the disease, regardless of their sexual orientation.

People with monkeypox often experience symptoms like fever, body aches and a rash; most recover within weeks without needing medical care.

Monkeypox in Africa mostly affects people who come into contact with infected wild animals, like rodents or primates. There has been about 1,500 reported cases of monkeypox, including 70 deaths, in Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

To date, scientists haven't found any mutations in the monkeypox virus that suggest it's more transmissible or lethal, although the number of changes detected show the virus has likely been spreading undetected for years.

The version of the disease transmitting beyond Africa typically has a fatality rate of less than 1%, while the version seen in Africa can kill up to 10% of people affected.

WHO is also creating a vaccine-sharing mechanism for monkeypox, which could see vaccines go to rich countries like Britain, which currently has the biggest outbreak beyond Africa.

Some experts warned that could entrench the deep inequities seen between rich and poor countries during the coronavirus pandemic.

"France, Germany, the U.S. and U.K. already have a lot of resources and plenty of vaccines to deal with this and they don't need vaccines from WHO," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, an expert in disaster preparedness and response at Columbia University.

"What we should be doing is trying to help the countries in Africa where monkeypox has been endemic and largely neglected," he said. "Monkeypox is not COVID, but our attention should not be so distorted that it only becomes a problem when it is seen in rich countries."

ON NUTRITION Supplements for sleep

By BARBARA INTERMILL
MONTEREY HERALD

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Scientists say several changes occur with aging that disrupt our natural sleep cycle. Supplements with these ingredients may help.

It's true that as we age, we don't sleep as well or as long. Why is that? Scientists say several changes occur with aging that disrupt our natural sleep cycle.

That's why I was intrigued with an ad on television for a product that claims to have been "clinically tested" and "proven effective" to help one fall asleep faster and sleep longer.

"I bet it has magnesium in it," I remarked to my husband as we listened to the convincing-sounding spiel. Sure enough, the supplement contains magnesium, a mineral that, among other jobs, may help promote healthful sleep.

Other ingredients commonly found in sleep supplements that may help include:

■ Valerian, an herb used historically for the treatment of nervousness and stress. According to the National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements (od.ods.nih.gov), some studies have shown that valerian may help decrease the time it takes to fall asleep. Other studies show no benefit, however.

■ Hops, flowers from the plant used to make beer, have some sedative effects, say researchers. Although there are no strong studies to support its use for sleep, a small amount of hops (about what you'd get in one nonalcoholic beer) can cause sleepiness in some people.

■ Ashwagandha extract is made from an evergreen shrub that grows in Asia and Africa. According to the National Library of Medicine (medlineplus.gov), the herb is "possibly" effective for insomnia and stress.

■ GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) is a chemical in our brains that slows down messages we receive and therefore helps us feel calm, says the Cleveland Clinic. Scientists are still examining the effectiveness and safety of GABA supplements for improving sleep, however. Interesting, this chemical is also found in many plant and fermented foods, including spinach, brown rice and kimchi.

■ Chamomile (the German type) may help improve sleep quality, though there is not enough information to know its effects for full-blown insomnia, according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine (nccih.nih.gov).

■ Passion flower is a climbing vine that has been used as a sedative. Again, it hasn't been studied extensively for improving sleep, though it can cause drowsiness in some people, say experts.

■ Melatonin is a hormone in our brain that makes us sleepy. It is made synthetically or from animals and microorganisms for use in dietary supplements. Although it may help one fall asleep faster, sleep experts do not currently recommend it for long-term treatment of insomnia due to lack of information about its safety.

Remember too that even if a product claims to be 100% natural with no side effects, anything we ingest for a certain outcome can affect our health. Always check with your medical provider and/or pharmacist to check for any interactions that may occur with your current medications, especially if you are pregnant.

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE: Reducing dementia risks

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

More than 55 million people worldwide are believed to be living with dementia, according to the World Health Organization. And women are likely to be twice as affected by dementia as men.

Dementia is an umbrella term for a group of symptoms affecting memory, thinking and social abilities. It's not one disease. And Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Dr. Ronald Petersen, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Mayo Clinic, says you can't prevent dementia, but you can reduce some of your dementia risks. In fact, there are a dozen risk factors that are modifiable.

Not every older adult will develop dementia, but there are risk factors that can be modified or changed.

"Some of these are cardiovascular issues, like blood pressure, smoking, obesity, diabetes and education," says Dr. Petersen. "Sleep is an important factor, as well as social isolation and the development of depression."

Heavy alcohol use, hearing loss and air pollution also may be risk factors.

If one were to attack one or more of these, you may actually be able to reduce your risk of developing cognitive impairment as you age."

Dr. Petersen says stay active—physically, socially and intellectually.

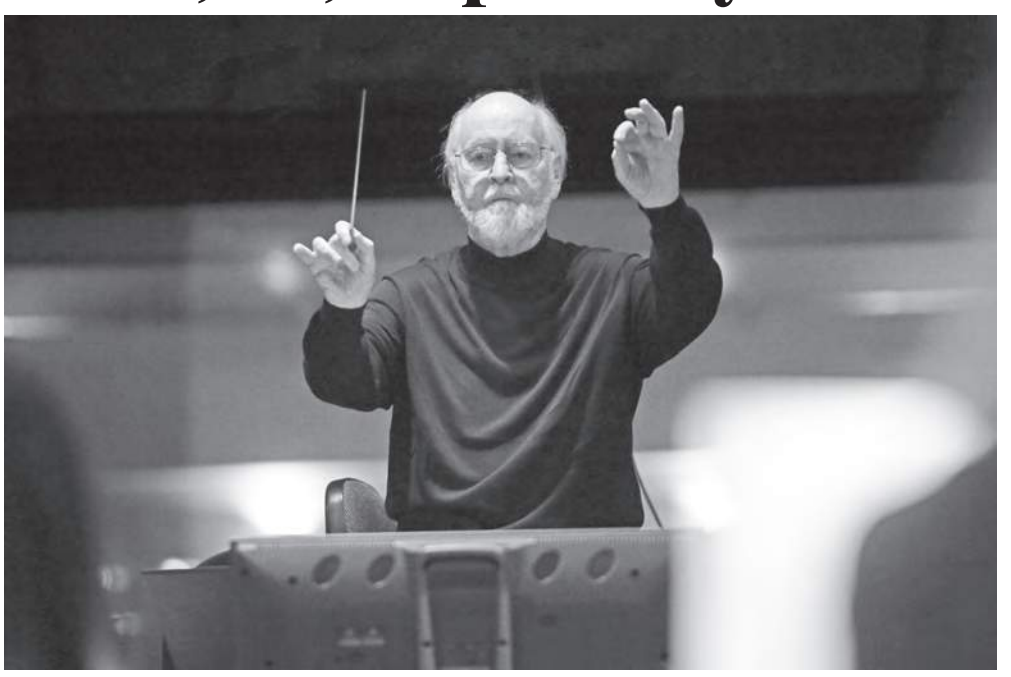
■ Exercise.
■ Read books.
■ Go to lectures.
■ See family and friends.

And get your hearing checked.

"Most importantly is sleep hygiene. Many people have difficulty with sleeping as they age for a variety of reasons," says Dr. Petersen.

Life & Style

John Williams, 90, steps away from film, but not music



AP

This 2017 photo released by Lucasfilm Ltd. shows John Williams, a five-time Oscar-winning composer.

NEW YORK (AP)—After more than six decades of making bicycles soar, sending panicked swimmers to the shore and other spellbinding close encounters, John Williams is putting the final notes on what may be his last film score.

"At the moment I'm working on 'Indiana Jones 5,' which Harrison Ford—who's quite a bit younger than I am—I think has announced will be his last film," Williams says. "So, I thought: If Harrison can do it, then perhaps I can, also."

Ford, for the record, hasn't said that publicly. And Williams, who turned 90 in February, isn't absolutely certain he's ready to, either.

"I don't want to be seen as categorically eliminating any activity," Williams says with a chuckle, speaking by phone from his home in Los Angeles. "I can't play tennis, but I like to be able to believe that maybe one day I will."

Right now, though, there are other ways Williams wants to be spending his time. A "Star Wars" film demands six months of work, which he notes, "at this point in life is a long commitment to me." Instead, Williams is devoting himself to composing concert music, including a piano concerto he's writing for Emanuel Ax.

This spring, Williams and cellist Yo-Yo Ma released the album "A Gathering of Friends," recorded with the New York Philharmonic, Pablo Sáinz-Villegas and Jessica Zhou. It's a radiant collection of cello concertos and new arrangements from the scores of "Schindler's List," "Lincoln" and "Munich," including the sublime "A Prayer for Peace."

Turning 90—an event that the Kennedy Center and Tanglewood are celebrating this summer with birthday concerts—has caused Williams to reflect on his accomplishments, his remaining ambitions and what a lifetime of music has meant to him.

"It's given me the ability to breathe, the ability to live and understand that there's more to corporal life," Williams says. "Without being religious, which I'm not especially, there is a spiritual life, an artistic life, a realm that's above the mundanities of everyday realities. Music can raise one's thinking to the level of poetry. We can reflect on how necessary music has been for humanity. I always like to speculate that music is older than language, that we were probably beating drums and blowing on reeds before we could speak. So it's an essential part of our humanity.

"It's given me my life."

And, in turn, Williams has provided the soundtrack to the lives of countless others through more than 100 film scores, among them "Star Wars,""Jurassic Park," "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "E.T.," "Indiana Jones,""Superman," "Schindler's List" and " Harry Potter."

It's an amount of accomplishment that's hard to quantify. Five Oscars and 52 Academy Award nominations, a number bested only by Walt Disney, is one measurement. But even that hardly hints at the cultural power of his music. A billion people might be able to instantly hum Williams' two-note ostinato from "Jaws" or "The Imperial March" from "Star Wars."

"I'm told that the music is played all over the world. What could be more rewarding than that?" says Williams. "But I have to say it seems unreal. I can only see what's in front of me at the piano right at this moment, and do my best with that."

All those indelible, perfectly constructed themes, he believes, are the product less of divine inspiration than daily hard work. Williams does most of his work sitting for hours at a time at his Steinway, composing in pencil.

"It's like cutting a stone at your desk," he says. "My younger colleagues are much faster than I am because they have electronic equipment and computers and synthesizers and so on."

When Williams began (his first feature film score was 1958's "Daddy-O"), the cinematic tradition of grand, orchestral scores was beginning to lose out to pop soundtracks. Now, many are gravitating toward synthesized music for film. Increasingly, Williams has the aura of a venerated old master who bridges distant eras of film and music.

"Recording with the New York Philharmonic, the whole orchestra to a person were awestruck by this gentleman at now 90 who hears everything, is unfailingly kind, gentle, polite. People just wanted to play for him," says Ma. "They were floored by the musicianship of this man."

This late chapter in Williams' career is in some ways a chance to place his mammoth legacy not just in connection with cinema but among the classical legends. Williams, who led the Boston Pops from 1980 to 1993, has conducted the Berlin, Vienna and New York philharmonics, among others. In the world's elite orchestras, Williams' compositions have passed into canon.

Williams' enduring partnership with Steven Spielberg has, of course, helped the composer's odds. Spielberg, who first sought out a lunch with Williams in 1972 after being captivated by his score to "The Reivers," has called him "the single most significant contributor to my success as a filmmaker."

"Without John Williams, bikes don't really fly," Spielberg said when the AFI honored Williams in 2016.

Judge makes jury's $10.3M award official in Depp-Heard trial

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—The judge in the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard defamation trial made a jury's award official Friday with a written order for Heard to pay Depp $10.35 million for damaging his reputation by describing herself as a domestic abuse victim in an op-ed piece she wrote.

Judge Penney Azcarate entered a judgment order into the court record after a brief hearing in Fairfax County Circuit Court. She also ordered Depp to pay Heard $2 million, the jury's award on her counterclaim that Heard was defamed by one of Depp's lawyers.

The order was a formality after the jury announced its verdict on June 1, largely siding with Depp after a sensational trial in which t he couple revealed lurid details of their short marriage during a televised trial that was closely followed on social media.

Depp sued Heard over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." The jury found in Depp's favor on all three of his claims relating to specific statements in the 2018 piece.

The jury found Depp should receive $10 million in compensatory damages and $5 million in punitive damages, but the judge reduced the punitive damages award to $350,000 under a state cap.

Heard has said she plans to appeal the verdict.

During Friday's hearing, the judge said that if if Heard appeals, she must post a bond for the full amount of the $10.35 million award while the appeal is pending—a common practice. The judge's order says both awards are subject to 6% interest per year.

Ex takes up residence in couple's driveway

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband, but I'm getting tired of being a second-class citizen in my home. It started when we bought a van from a friend of mine. We talked about different things we could do with it—fix it up a little and sell it, or use it for vacation — but somewhere along the line it was suggested that we let my ex, "Paul," buy it from us because he's homeless and chooses to let everyone else take care of him.

The van is now fixed. Paul lost his job and is now living in the van—in my driveway. The problem is, he doesn't stay in the van. He crashes on my couch, uses my electricity, water, etc., and now eats my food. I told my husband this is not healthy for my mental well-being.

My husband and I own our own business, and Paul has now become involved in that, too. My husband says he can use the help and it gives Paul money to move. The only problem with that is my ex doesn't use the money for bills -- he blows it on junk he doesn't need. I'm tired of raising a 41-year-old grown man. Help!

FED UP IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR FED UP: You are not a second-class citizen. This arrangement seems crazy. Because it is interfering with your marriage, tell your husband the situation is affecting your mental health and insist upon a deadline by which Paul will be out of there. Guests, like fish, start to stink after three days, and Paul has exceeded that by far. He has a van, so whether or not he has saved enough for a place of his own, he won't be without shelter. Your mental health is more important than your husband having an extra hand in the business.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have several creative friends who have either written a book or made a music CD. I get asked to read or listen to these creations and submit an online review. The book was written about a very rough divorce, and my "friend" described her ex using some gossipy (and awful) information that I knew was not true. She placed all the blame on her ex, when it was she who committed adultery (a fact she conveniently left out of the book). The music CD was not to my liking either—my friend cannot sing.

How do I handle these review requests? So far, I have simply not submitted a review because I'm not going to lie or give a bad one. But what do I say when they ask?

CRITICAL CRITIC

DEAR CRITIC: Tell your author friend that while she may be a talented writer, you are not comfortable endorsing her book because it is being used as a weapon to make her ex-husband look bad. Point out that if her book succeeds, he could retaliate by suing her for libel, and you want no part of it. As to your musician friend, all you need to say about the CD is that "it is clear the singer has music in their soul."

In the future when you are asked to write a review, decline by stating that because you are a friend, you cannot give an unbiased review. Period.

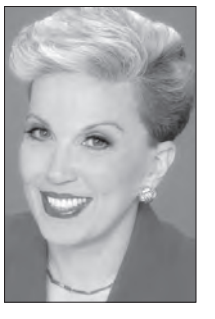
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

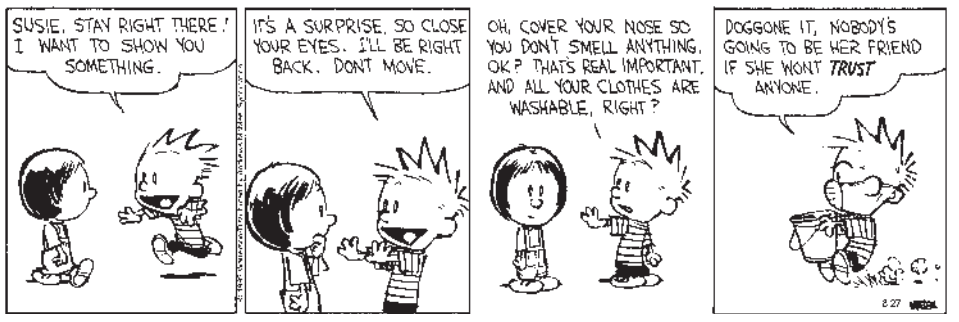


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

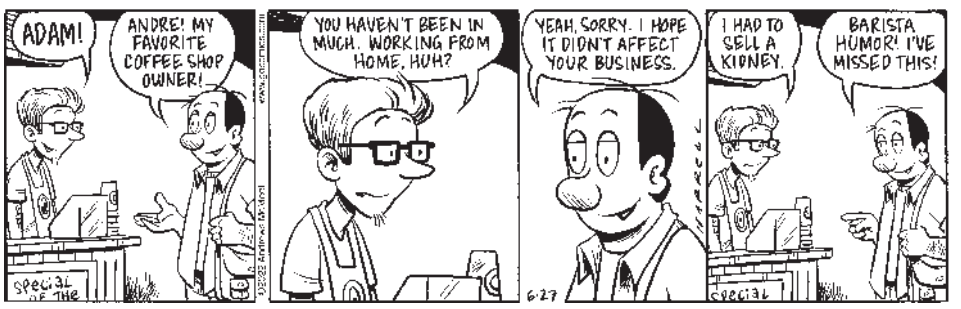

SUSIE, STAY RIGHT THERE! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
IT'S A SURPRISE. SO CLOSE YOUR EYES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. DON'T MOVE.
OH, COVER YOUR NOSE SO YOU DON'T SMELL ANYTHING, OK? THAT'S REAL IMPORTANT. AND ALL YOUR CLOTHES ARE WASHABLE, RIGHT?
DOGGONE IT, NOBODY'S GOING TO BE HER FRIEND IF SHE WON'T TRUST ANYONE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

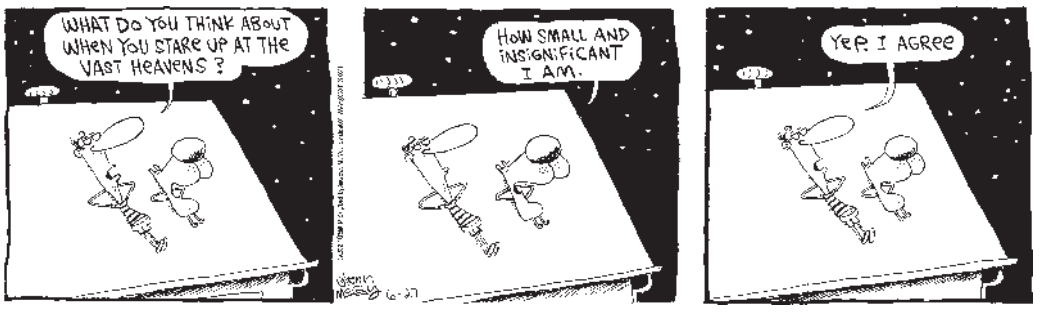
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM!
ANDRE! MY FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP OWNER!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN MUCH. WORKING FROM HOME, HUH?
YEAH, SORRY. I HOPE IT DIDN'T AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS.
I HAD TO SELL A KIDNEY.
BARISTA HUMOR! I'VE MISSED THIS!
6-27

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Little rascal
4 Bottomless gulf
9 Zodiac animal
12 Klutz
13 Country singer Shelton
14 "As I see it," to a texter
15 Saves
17 Pantheon member
18 Ump's call
19 Computer whiz
21 Prime Minister Gandhi
24 Part of Q.E.D.
25 Fish-fowl insert
26 Genetic stuff
28 Attempts
31 Lummox
33 Highland hat
35 Trade
36 Mayhem
38 Congeal
40 Citric beverage
41 Slangy suffix
43 Persuaded
45 Din
47 Venus, to Serena
48 Unprocessed
49 Averts one's eyes
54 Docs' bloc
55 Arctic native
56 Flamenco cheer
57 Inlet
58 Civil wrongs
59 Drench

DOWN

1 Cyclades isle
2 Chairman of China
3 Cpl.'s subordinate
4 Ridiculous
5 Conspicuous
6 Deviate off course
7 Emulate Gretzky
8 Seth of "Late Night"
9 Pronto
10 Mine, to Marcel
11 Style
16 Japanese pond carp
20 Felines
21 Foot fraction
22 The Big Easy acronym
23 Departed by car
27 Remote batteries, often
29 Ordered
30 Raced
32 Campus digs
34 Rations dinnerware
37 "Relax!"
39 Contorts
42 Maine college town
44 Red — beet
45 Beach crawler
46 Tibetan monk
50 Couple's pronoun
51 Dazzle
52 Hearty quaff
53 Even so

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	P	B		M	C	S		D	A	I	F	S	
P	R	E		A	H	A		O	D	D	E	R	
R	O	Z		C	A	K	E	W	A	L	K	S	
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L	O	S	T		C	S	S		A	U	D		
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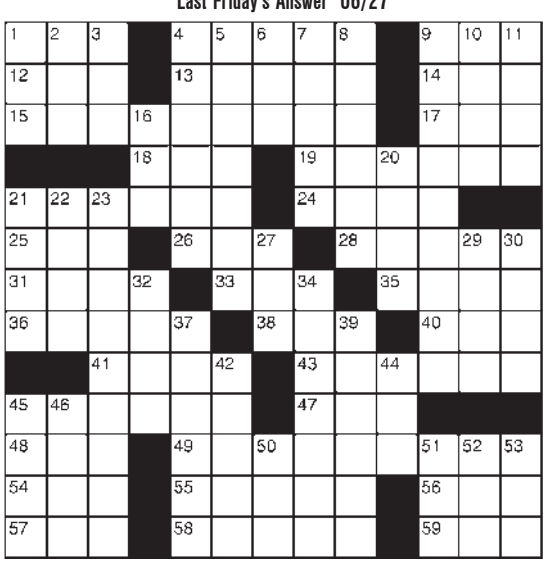
Last Friday's Answer 06/27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kimiko Glenn, 33; Ed Westwick, 35; Tobey Maguire, 47; J.J. Abrams, 56.

Happy Birthday: Look at everything objectively. Ponder over how much to spend and what to do. Take the time to recognize opportunities and maintain your course. If you refuse the desire to overdo or indulge, you'll avoid mistakes and regret. A friendly, positive approach to work and pleasure, coupled with discipline and a budget, will lead to victory. Your numbers are 5, 16, 24, 27, 31, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learn from experience, but leave the past behind you. It's time to focus on moving forward and going after your goals. Address issues that concern you, and reach out to someone you trust for suggestions. Make money, health and self-improvement your priorities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Step back when uncertainty sets in. Inconsistency will make you appear weak. Size up situations, and take the path that helps you gain confidence. By showing your strength of character, you'll end up in an excellent position. Be proactive. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take advantage of the help offered. Reach out and make a difference by participating in a cause that concerns you. Doing your part will put you in the spotlight and initiate opportunities to help you get ahead personally or professionally. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Control your emotions, and don't let anyone bully you into an argument. Hone your skills and set your sights on what you can learn. Take a unique route if it will help you be more efficient in reaching your goal. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Follow through with your plans. Refuse to let someone control the changes you want to make. Do the legwork yourself, and let your charm persuade others to pitch in and help. Discuss your intentions, then commit. Self-improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* By going about your business, you'll avoid wasting time on something that won't benefit you. Listen to your heart, not someone trying to get you to do things for them. Dedicate your time and experience to something that will support positive change. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll receive information that can help you sort through a dilemma you encounter. Listen attentively and ask questions to ensure you have your facts straight before moving forward with your plans. Make personal growth, educational pursuits and romance your goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to a budget. Consider what you can do to improve your surroundings and lower your overhead. Declutter your space by donating or selling what is no longer useful to you. Change begins with you; don't let hesitation be your downfall. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Raise your expectations, and turn your dreams into reality. You will get out what you put in. Focus on what excites you, and prepare to start a new adventure. Love and romance are favored, and positive domestic changes are encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Gather information that helps you use your skills efficiently. Discipline will be essential if you plan to get ahead. Don't let your emotions or ego cost you. Make decisions that support closure, and live up to your promises. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop worrying about what others choose to do. Put your best foot forward and do what makes you happy. Making home improvements will motivate you to entertain more. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the road less traveled instead of following the crowd. Be yourself. Use your skills and knowledge to benefit you or a cause you believe in. You will find peace of mind and a better lifestyle. Avoid temptation. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are chatty, curious and outgoing. You are aggressive and supportive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5					
5	8	7		2		1	3	6
9					8			5
		3	8	7	9			4
6	4		2	4	1	3	9	
4			7					1
7	6	2		5		8	4	9
					6			

Difficulty Level ★ 6/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	6	5	2	8	1	9	3	7
3	1	8	7	4	9	2	6	5
2	7	9	3	5	6	1	8	4
8	5	2	4	9	3	7	1	6
1	4	3	6	7	8	5	2	9
7	9	6	5	1	2	3	4	8
6	2	4	9	3	7	8	5	1
5	8	7	1	2	4	6	9	3
9	3	1	8	6	5	4	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RAY LIOTTA (1954-2022) Solution: 9 letters

S	A	L	L	E	F	D	O	O	G	A	R	A	G	E
P	I	L	G	R	I	M	A	B	S	G	O	H	K	A
E	O	R	F	Q	Y	T	P	R	R	A	T	N	A	Y
A	R	C	T	R	N	N	H	A	E	E	A	O	B	T
K	O	N	A	E	E	H	N	E	C	R	C	S	I	I
N	T	M	Ⓜ	L	C	D	O	O	F	K	E	R	L	C
E	C	R	Ⓛ	L	A	E	E	J	O	T	S	A	I	K
E	A	A	Ⓘ	E	R	A	M	S	A	N	E	K	T	R
W	D	E	Ⓕ	H	G	R	O	S	M	C	E	A	Y	O
O	R	N	A	C	E	N	H	E	E	I	K	L	M	Y
L	I	N	O	I	A	E	M	L	I	D	T	S	M	W
L	N	D	S	M	L	M	E	E	B	B	A	H	O	E
A	G	A	E	D	Y	S	P	O	O	F	U	H	T	N
H	R	C	O	C	R	A	N	H	E	N	I	H	S	E
F	I	N	W	A	P	R	R	S	N	O	W	M	E	N

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Ability, Aces, Actor, Alfred, Allen, Bee, Cop, Dare, Dear, Emmy, Film, Frank, Frasier, Garage, Goodfellas, Grace, Grand, Halloween, Hanna, Hogs, Home, Hubie, Iceman, Jackson, John O, Karson, Leno, Mary, Michelle, Narc, Near, New York City, Pack, Pawn, Pilgrim, Rat, Raymond, Ring, Shades, Sheldon, Shine, Shoeless Joe, Smith, Snowmen, Speak, Spoof, Team, Theft, Tommy

Last Friday's Answer: Fungus

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Astros' Javier, 2 relievers combine to no-hit Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—Cristian Javier, Héctor Neris and Ryan Pressly combined on the first no-hitter against the New York Yankees in 19 years, shutting down the best team in baseball and pitching the Houston Astros to a 3-0 victory on Saturday.

Javier (5-3), a 25-year-old right-hander without a complete game in 84 professional starts, was clearly tired when manager Dusty Baker brought in a reliever to start the eighth. Javier set career highs for strikeouts (13) and pitches (115), and he matched his longest start with seven innings.

Pressly, who gave up a tying three-run homer to Aaron Hicks in a 7-6 loss Thursday night, retired three straight batters in the ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

After Giancarlo Stanton hit into a game-ending groundout, the Astros walked onto the field and gathered near the mound for a brief celebration. Houston was also the previous team to no-hit New York, when six pitchers combined for one at the old Yankee Stadium on June 11, 2003.

Rookie J.J. Matijevic gave Javier a lead in the seventh when he hit his second big league homer, driving a fastball from Gerrit Cole (6-2) into the right-field second deck. Jose Altuve homered into the left-field second deck in the eighth against Michael King, and pinch-hitter Yuli Gurriel added an RBI single off Lucas Luetge in the ninth.

AP

Houston Astros relief pitcher Ryan Pressly (55) celebrates with Martin Maldonado and Alex Bregman (2) after a combined no-hitter against the New York Yankees after a baseball game, Saturday, June 25, 2022, in New York.

Red Sox 4, Guardians 2

In Cleveland, Alex Verdugo hit a three-run homer, Jarren Duran had four hits and an RBI, and Boston won its sixth straight.

Verdugo's two-out rocket to right off Shane Bieber (3-4) gave Boston a 3-2 lead in the sixth inning. Duran added an RBI single in the ninth off Enyel De Los Santos.

The scorching Red Sox moved a season-high 10 games over .500 and are 18-4 this month. Boston owns the second-best record in baseball since May 10 at 31-12, yet they remain 11 games back of the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Right-hander Josh Winckowski (3-1) went 5 1/3 innings, allowing two runs, to win for the third time in three June starts. The Toledo, Ohio, native made his big league debut May 28 against Baltimore and was pitching for the first time in his home state.

Mets 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, Pete Alonso hit two leadoff homers, including a go-ahead shot in the eighth inning, and New York beat Miami.

Alonso's home run over the left-center field wall against Miami reliever Jimmy Yacabonis (0-1) snapped a 3-3 tie. It was Alonso's NL-leading 22nd homer of the season and 14th multi-homer game of his career

Brandon Nimmo's third hit, an RBI double in the ninth, increased the Mets' lead. Francisco Lindor doubled and singled and Starling Marte had two hits for the NL East leaders.

New York starter Chris Bassitt pitched seven strong innings. Bassitt (6-5) allowed three runs and six hits while striking out five. Seth Lugo pitched a perfect eighth and Edwin Díaz struck out the three batters he faced in the ninth for his 16th save.

Giants 9, Reds 2

In San Francisco, Logan Webb pitched six innings of two-hit ball and San Francisco backed its ace with four home runs.

Evan Longoria, Thairo Estrada, Joc Pederson and Wilmer Flores homered for the Giants, who snapped a three-game skid. They had lost five of six after winning seven of their previous eight.

Webb (7-2) struck out six and walked two. He's given up just two earned runs over 18 innings over his last three starts.

Brandon Drury homered for the Reds, who have lost eight of their last nine games. Mike Minor (1-4) gave up six runs on eight hits, including three home runs.

Brewers 5, Blue Jay 4

In Milwaukee, Corbin Burnes pitched into the eighth inning, Andrew McCutchen and Mike Brosseau homered, and Milwaukee beat Toronto.

In his first career start against Toronto, Burnes (6-4) allowed home runs to Matt Chapman and Bo Bichette and an RBI groundout by Cavan Biggio. He struck nine and walked two, then turned over a 5-3 lead with runners at first and second and two outs in the eighth to Devin Williams, who fanned Alejandro Kirk.

Chapman doubled with two outs and scored on a base hit by Lourdes Gurriel Jr. off Josh Hader, but the closer escaped with his 22nd save when Gabriel Moreno grounded out to first.

Blue Jays starter Yusei Kikuchi (2-4) allowed five runs, two earned, on six hits with five strikeouts, a walk, a wild pitch and a hit batter. He slipped to 1-3 in his last seven starts.

Twins 6, Rockies 0

In Minneapolis, Chris Archer kept his strong June going with five scoreless innings, and three Minnesota relievers closed out a one-hitter.

A day after being shut out themselves, Luis Arraez and the Twins had 10 hits in a dominant victory. Arraez — the big league batting leader — had two hits, Alex Kirilloff drove in three and Byron Buxton marked his return to the lineup with an RBI triple in the first inning.

Archer (2-3) struck out five and walked one while matching a season high in innings — four of which were perfect. In five June starts, the right-hander has allowed four earned runs over 23 innings for a 1.57 ERA.

Antonio Senzatela (3-4) surrendered four runs on eight hits in five innings for Colorado. The Rockies' lone hit was a single by C.J. Cron leading off the second.

Braves 5, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, Marcell Ozuna hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Atlanta recovered after blowing a three-run lead to beat Los Angeles.

Travis d'Arnaud led off the seventh with a double to left field off Brusdar Graterol (2-3). Ozuna followed with his 14th homer to center field.

Dodgers designated hitter Will Smith tied the game at 3 with a homer to left field off A.J. Minter (4-1) to open the eighth.

Braves left-hander Max Fried allowed six hits with nine strikeouts and one walk in 6 2/3 innings. Former Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen struck out the side in the ninth, including throwing a game-ending fastball past Trea Turner, for his 19th save.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 3

In St. Louis, Iván Herrera hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning for his first career RBI and St. Louis beat Chicago.

Juan Yepez lined a one-out double to the left field wall off Cubs reliever Mark Leiter Jr. (1-2) in the eighth, and pinch-runner Edmundo Sosa advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring the go-ahead run on Herrera's fly.

Harrison Bader advanced to second on Herrera's out and scored on Tommy Edman's single to right field to extend the lead to 5-3.

Ryan Helsley (3-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings to lower his ERA to 0.31.

Rays 6, Pirates 5

In Tampa, Fla., Isaac Paredes hit a solo homer in the eighth inning and a two-run single with two outs in the ninth, sending Tampa Bay to a 6-5 victory over Pittsburgh.

Ji-Man Choi and Vidal Bruján reached on two-out walks before Jonathan Aranda's pinch-hit single loaded the bases against David Bednar (3-2). Paredes then hit an opposite-field liner to right for his game-ending single.

Ralph Garza Jr. (1-2) worked two scoreless innings for the win in Tampa Bay's fourth straight one-run game. It also was a Rays-record 11th consecutive game decided by two or fewer runs.

Jack Suwinski hit a three-run homer for the Pirates.

Orioles 6, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Jorge Mateo homered and doubled to lead give Baltimore its first four-game winning streak this season.

Lance Lynn (1-1) retired eight straight batters before Mateo lifted a solo homer just over the left-center fence to put Baltimore ahead in the third.

Spenser Watkins (1-1) gave up five hits and no earned runs to get his third win in 19 career starts. He fanned four and walked one in five innings.

Baltimore has won eight of 10. Chicago has lost four in a row at home.

Rangers 3, Nationals 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis García homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Texas a victory over Washington.

The Cuban slugger matched Corey Seager for the team lead with 15 homers when he drilled a 2-2 slider from reliever Kyle Finnegan (2-2) into Washington's bullpen.

Nelson Cruz hit a tying two-run homer for the Nationals against for his former team in the sixth inning after Nathaniel Lowe had given Texas the lead with a two-run shot in the second.

Joe Barlow (3-1), the only right-hander to pitch on a bullpen day for Texas, finished the ninth with a strikeout of Victor Robles.

Athletics 9, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Tony Kemp hit a two-run homer, Seth Brown and Sean Murphy combined for four RBIs, and Oakland beat Kansas City.

The A's tied a season high with 14 hits. Oakland had the leadoff man reach base in six innings. Four of the six were leadoff doubles, and all came around to score.

Jared Koenig allowed three runs off five hits in 4 2/3 innings and struck out a career-high four with three walks. The Oakland bullpen of Zach Puk, Zach Jackson (2-2), Sam Moll and Lou Trivino surrendered four runs. Trivino earned his third save with a scoreless ninth and completed two scoreless innings.

Brad Keller (2-9) gave up five runs, four earned, on eight hits in 3 2/3 innings with four strikeouts and two walks. Michael A. Taylor and Bobby Witt Jr. homered for Kansas City.

Tigers 6, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Kody Clemens hit his first major league home run to lead the Detroit Tigers to a 6-3 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Saturday.

The 26-year-old son of seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens hit a three-run homer in the top of the sixth inning off Arizona reliever Joe Mantiply to break a 3-3 tie.

Clemens called his home run an "amazing" moment.

"It was great," he said. "As soon as I hit it I knew it had a chance, and as soon as I was about to go around first I saw it was going out and he (Mantiply) turned and looked up, and I showed some emotion there. I was pumped, especially it being kind of late in the game. A three-run homer was crucial for the team. It was just awesome."

Clemens came into the game hitting .125 and hadn't played since June 19. He was 1 for 5 against left-handed pitching before homering off Mantiply. It was the first home run Mantiply has allowed to a left-handed hitter in his career.

GOLD

From Page 20

against Guam.

Jones' performance is reminiscent of the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia when Jones came out to pitch in the third inning and beat Guam for the gold in the baseball finals, 8-4.

Starting pitcher Franko Nakamura gave up four runs to Guam in the bottom of the third inning after goose eggs for both teams in the first and second inning.

Team NMI's bats then came alive and rallied in the fourth inning to tie the game up, 4-4, after Guam's starting pitcher Paul Pangelinan gave up a triple to Jerald Cabrera who started off the momentum for the next batters. Nokki Saralu then scored him in after he hit a sacrifice fly and after Juan Iguel stepped up to the plate to score two more runs, as the crowd exploded in excitement at the comeback of the home team.

Guam replied with one run after Jones stepped up to the plate in the fourth inning, giving Guam a lead of 5-4, but Jones managed to hold them off. NMI's offense then gave Jones more insurance by scoring five runs, for a score of 9-5, in a two-out rally in the fifth inning, with Guam's pitcher finally shutting them down after going through nine NMI batters. Guam was unable to put up a run against Jones in their at-bats in the same inning.

NMI scored two more runs in the sixth inning to widen the gap, 11-5. Jones seemed to be slowing down a little after Guam managed to score three runs against him, to put Guam closer, 11-8.

In a nail-biter seventh inning, both teams put up zeros after Jones managed to get out of a sticky situation with runners on base and finally shutting down the lineup. NMI and Guam put up one run each in the eighth inning to put the score 12-9, as the crowd and both teams could almost see the end of the game, with the shiny gold medals, just a little out of reach, calling out to the NMI and Guam players.

Finally, in the ninth inning, with pressure mounting on both teams and the crowd hyped up with the possibility of Team NMI taking the gold, NMI could not put up more runs to widen the lead, giving Guam an opportunity in their last at-bat to possibly tie the game or bust it wide open to win the gold.

However, with the home crowd and Team NMI backing up him up on the mound, Jones managed to shut down the last of Guam's batters to give the NMI the gold, with the crowd around the baseball field erupting in cheers over the victory of their home team.

The NMI star pitcher was immediately hugged by teammates and coaches on the field and afterwards Team NMI did a victory lap to salute the whooping and hooting fans in attendance.

Jones tossed a total of six innings in relief, while allowing eight hits and five runs, with nine strikeouts.

After the game, Jones was interviewed and was seen bursting with excitement and emotion. He credited the win to the support of the fans and "of course my teammates. We all did this together, we all chipped in… Gold medal baby, let's go!" exalted Jones.

When asked how it felt to win the gold medal game against Guam, he said "it feels good. It's like I told others before, these guys are a really young squad. It's just the beginning for them, just keep your head up… just keep working hard. I'll see them again for sure."

"It's been eight years since I represented my island. I knew I was still able to play, I was still able to pitch… I was ready for this. I've trained my butt off since November. I put softball aside and it was just strictly baseball and I was just working all the way hard. I came in April and just helped out," added Jones.

Cather Jerald Cabrera said, "We have been practicing for eight months. Unfortunately, we never had a league, but the boys pulled through, we came every day, we grinded it out, and here we are, gold medalists. Here I am, still in shock."

J.P Sablan, the designated hitter for the game, said, "we did it for everybody. I did it for my family. I've been practicing so hard, I missed a lot of birthdays… Thank you [fans] for all your support every day, thank you for showing up," he said.

Head coach Derron U. Flores was also emotional after the gold medal win, "I'd like to thank God for guiding NMI baseball to the gold. The management staff with Manny [Sablan], our manager, myself the head coach, and Gary [Cruz], assistant coach, and Chris [Nelson], pitching coach. It's just an awesome combination. Our boys never let up even being the third seed. The game versus Palau put us in the third seed, but we had an awesome game today. Josh pitched a gem. Of course, Guam was up 4-0, but in baseball, it's not over 'til it's over. When we tied it up in the fourth inning and the momentum started swinging our way… Josh said I want the ball… That's the reason why we brought him in from Arizona… He came ready. He came prepared. Our boys came ready."

NMPMG2022/ANDO AGULTO

CNMI ace pitcher Joshua Jones in action against Guam in the gold medal game of the baseball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Friday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

"To the organizing committee, our honorable governor, it was an awesome turnout, an awesome tournament. Solomon Islands, Fiji, Palau, Guam, thank you for making this baseball [game] after four years, it was a long time coming. Our boys have been hungry… and finally we got this field done. And lastly, we'd like to thank all our wives, my wife, for again, continuing to let us grind every day. This is for you guys; this is for our island. This is for everybody, this gold medal belongs to you guys," he added.

Team NMI players also consisted of Lamarc Iguel, Juan Iguel, John Peter Camacho Sablan, Shane Yamada, Anthony Tenorio, Keoni Lizama, Darion David Jones, Joshua John Jones, Benjamin Jones Jr, Lorenzo Lee Sebaklim, Tyrone Omar, Patrick John Alepuyo, Aldebert Delos Santos Lizama, Nokki Saralu, Diego Joaquin Camacho, Franko Nakamura, Jerald Jerome Cabrera, Dennis Cabrera, Joaquin Jacob Babauta Jr., and Byron Kaipat. Manuel Cepeda Sablan Jr. served as Team NMI manager.

TENNIS

From Page 20

Stubbings in the finals of the men's doubles, 6-0, 6-1.

There was extra motivation for the 27-year-old to beat the Stubbings, Sinclair's teammate in the Pacific Oceania team in the Davis Cup tie in Estonia earlier in the year, as only the day before he and Isabel Herras lost to the No. 2 seed and Violet Apisah in the mixed doubles semifinals, denying him a fourth gold medal.

"I love it. It's great to play Matty. We played last week in Guam and had practice matches leading up to the Games. Matt's a great friend of mine and he beat me yesterday in the mixed doubles," said Sinclair.

Stubbings, for his part, applauded Sinclair for a dominating game in the men's singles gold medal game.

"You see why Colin is a Top 500 player. He's just an unbelievable player. He's just a good of a guy on court as he is off court. It was a pleasure to play him today."

A couple of hours later, Sinclair was again on center court to team up with Robbie Schorr in the men's doubles finals where they found themselves down 0-3 in the first set after both players lost their serves against Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and Aymeric Mara.

Vanuatu actually had a chance to close it out in the first set, but Mainguy double faulted twice serving at deuce with the score at 5-4 that allowed the CNMI to tie the set and Sinclair and Schorr would eventually win the next two games to salvage the first set win, 7-5.

The CNMI had all momentum on their side in the second and were ready to take the gold at 5-4, but allowed Mainguy and Mara to rally to tie the set at 5-5 before the Vanuatu pair eventually succumbed in the last two games to lose with the same score, 7-5.

Race simply admired Sinclair and Schorr's fight-back especially early in the first set.

"These guys played with so much heart in the game. We were down 0-3 in the first set and they came back. It wasn't easy. Those guys (Vanuatu) really wanted it bad and they're really hungry. Colin and Robbie played just great down the stretch and I'm so proud of them," he said.

Schorr said it was just an honor being part of a terrific match.

"What can I say it had everything in that match. It was a well-played match today and we fought to the very end. We played well and the crowd was behind us. Thank you and I love you guys."

For Sinclair, he honestly thought the finals was not going the CNMI's way.

"I thought we were screwed [when we were down 0-3 in the first set]. No, it was great and we fought back. It was good and I trust Robbie a lot to make plays and come up clutch in the end. Full credit to Robbie and it was a great match."

Later in the day, Sinclair willed himself to play with Isabel Herras in the bronze medal game in the mixed doubles and the CNMI prevailed, 7-5, 7-5,

"It's our last match of the Games and we wanted to go out with a strong finish. Although we're very disappointed yesterday because we we're leading 5-1 in the super tiebreaker for a chance to advance to the gold medal game. I'm very confident that have we had won that match we'll get the gold medal today. Nevertheless, it's an unbelievable match and we squeaked past Papua New Guinea and it happens to be the same score as the men's doubles finals, 7-5, 7-5. So it's our day to go with dozens," said Race.

Isabel, who had several flirtations with a podium finish before the breakthrough in the mixed doubles, heaved a sigh of relief after finishing the Games not empty-handed.

"It feels great to finally get a medal after 10 long days of competition. It really feels good to be coming out with something. I'm dedicating this medal to all the people of Saipan and everyone who came to support us. It's amazing to see all the people of Saipan, even those who don't play tennis."

She also paid tribute to Sinclair for his calming influence.

"He's amazing and never gets mad and supportive. Great player and all-around good person!"

Sinclair, for his part, said the last day of tennis competition was the polar opposite of the day before.

"I feel tired. I'm tired but I'm really happy with how today went. Yesterday we had a bit of disappointment with the result of the mixed doubles. I was really happy to bounce back with my partners today to finish out the Games with three wins."

The son of former longtime Saipan residents Peter and Kathryn Sinclair added that there was just no way he'd let Herras down.

"I've seen Issy battle here for 10 days and every time she came so close in the team event and just today for the women's doubles she just missed out on a bronze. I thought we had a little hiccup there in the second and we had a little battle but I'm so happy to close it out," said Sinclair.

On his long-awaited trip back to the island he grew up in, he said really can't complain with everyone treating him like he never left.

"So far, so good. I love seeing just family and friends who I haven't seen for a long, long time. It's been a very special trip back and I hope to go back a lot sooner. Thank you to coach Jeff and thank you to Bobby (teammate and assistant coach Bobby Cruz) and thank you to the team and for everyone for coming out. Also Miss Lydia (Tan) she's been awesome all week and Miss Karen (Ramsey).

Logan, Andrew settle for silver in beach v-ball

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI settled for the silver medal in beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 after Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson lost a heartbreaking third-setter against Vanuatu Friday night at the Crowne Plaza sand courts.

Mister and Johnson, who went undefeated in pool play and in the playoffs, nipped Chillia James and Banga Stivano in the first set, 21-19.

The Vanuatu pair, however, returned with the vengeance in the second set and blitzed the CNMI pair, 21-10, to force a third and deciding set.

Mister and Johnson played James and Stivano almost to a standstill in the rubber but Vanuatu had experience on their side and ultimately pulled off the victory and grabbed the gold medal, 15-13.

"Vanuatu was very tough to play in the finals. Not only were they undefeated, but I believe they didn't lose a single set throughout the duration of the Mini Games (aside from the first set against us in the finals). Both players in the Vanuatu team have many strengths that they were able to utilize them against us," said Johnson.

He added that the game was a battle and is thankful for all the support of the home crowd.

"We felt good. I feel great. We've been putting in a lot of hard work for this and it's nice to see how far we've gotten. Thankful for everyone who gave us support," added Johnson.

For Mister, the silver medal in the Games is just start of bigger things to come.

"Definitely got the fire going. I just wanna keep training and get better for the next one. I'm just really happy to get a silver and bring home something. I'm going to continue training because we are getting better and hopefully we get gold in the future."

ANGEL LI

The CNMI's Logan Mister and Andrew Johnson pose, left, with their silver medals after finishing second to Vanuatu in the beach volleyball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Friday night at the Crowne Plaza Resort.

For the gold-medal winning team, it was just pure happiness for winning in the finals.

"I feel so happy. I feel so proud because my family, my community, my province, and my country they support me and I feel so happy," said Stivano.

"I feel so proud and happy because this is my first time getting gold," added James.

Badminton bronze

The CNMI's Janelle Pangilinan and Jenine Savellano gave the CNMI a bronze medal in the badminton event after beating Tahiti's Hortensia Manzanal and Waianuhea Teheura, 21-12 21-9, in women's doubles last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Pangilinan said she's proud of the bronze and until now the final point of the match against Tahiti is still replaying in her head.

"When making that last point, I was the one serving and was going on through my mind was just one more point and you will get that medal. I am dedicating this medal to my team. I could not have done it without them," she said.

National badminton coach James Digno said he's just overjoyed that his young team was able to medal in the Games

"Very proud of them. Despite the pressure of going up against the top seed team they still pulled through giving NMI their only medal for badminton." ***(Angel Li)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Janelle Pangilinan, right, and Jen Savellano won the bronze medal in the women's doubles of the badminton competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ZHIMIN

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round to finish the tournament at 312, a mere stroke ahead of runner-up Howard's 313 and two strokes better than Vui's 314.

Jin said winning the gold medal in the Mini Games has given her a lot mixed emotions.

"I feel really great and I was also emotional and there were people there who saw me cry after the round."

Aside from her obvious home course advantage, Jin also credited her caddy, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, for helping her mentally get through the 72 holes of golf during the four-day tournament.

"I think the familiarity with the course helped because it's my home course. But at the same time my caddy who is also my coach also tried to help me maintain my composure. Because sometimes when I miss some shots I'd be like feeling mad and he's helped me calm down," she said.

Jin dedicated her gold medal to two of her biggest supporters—her family and the CNMI National Golf Team. She also extended her gratitude to the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations for giving her a chance to represent the Commonwealth in the Mini Games.

Camacho credited his ward for following his instructions to the T and not wavering even against golfers twice her age.

"For the most part what was really important and it made all the difference was we worked as a team. We built a game plan for her and we stuck to the plan. A lot of prep talk about the pressures of high-level competition and I prepared her for all that before and during the Games."

He said Jin is also one of the hardest workers in the sport on island.

"She really, really put a lot of hard work into this. I told her on the third day, 'you do the playing and I'll do the thinking' and on the first day before she teed off I told her, 'well champ, this is day that you've been waiting for so let's do this and most importantly a swing and a stroke at a time and let's have fun doing it,'" said Camacho.

The veteran striker said he couldn't be prouder for Jin winning the gold medal in the Games.

"I'm very proud of her and I'm glad to be a part of her accomplishments in golf. To see your student reach a milestone by winning a gold medal is the most fulfilling and satisfying feeling you can get as a coach."

The CNMI men also hit pay dirt after J.J. Atalig and his son, Joshua, Zhi Yun Li, and Franco Santos came away with the best score in the final 18 holes to salvage the bronze medal. The CNMI men finished with 224 in the last round—seven strokes better than the next best total score.

The quarter finished third behind powerhouses New Caledonia (893) and Guam (901) after totaling 928 in all four rounds. Santos was in the forefront of the final day assault as he fired a 69, while J.J. came through with a 78 and Joshua and Li shot identical 79s.

Coach Victor Salas couldn't be happier for the men's team getting the gold medal on home soil.

"I'm happy the men's won bronze. On the last day of competition Fiji was trailing behind us by just three strokes. I told the men I needed them to shoot 70s or better and they promised they'll go out and finish strong."

He thanked the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations, Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, volunteers, and the people of the CNMI for their support before, during, and after the Games.

"We dedicate this medal to the volunteers and the people of the CNMI. Even if we didn't win any medals we're all winners just by the hospitality we've shown to our visiting countries," said Salas, who was joined in the national team coaching staff by Ned Norita and Yuko Togawa.

MEDAL STANDINGS

TEAM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Papua New Guinea	33	28	19	80
Tahiti	22	15	21	58
Northern Mariana Islands	16	13	9	38
Australia	16	3	3	22
New Caledonia	11	26	17	54
Guam	10	5	11	26
Fiji	9	17	17	43
Samoa	8	5	8	21
Solomon Islands	5	18	6	29
Tonga	4	0	3	7
Kiribati	3	0	1	4
Palau	3	0	1	4
Vanuatu	2	5	1	8
Tuvalu	2	0	1	3
Cook Islands	0	1	3	4
Wallis & Futuna	0	0	6	6
Norfolk Island	0	0	2	2
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
Nauru	0	0	0	0

Astros' Javier, 2 relievers combine to no-hit Yankees

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Logan, Andrew settle for silver in beach v-ball

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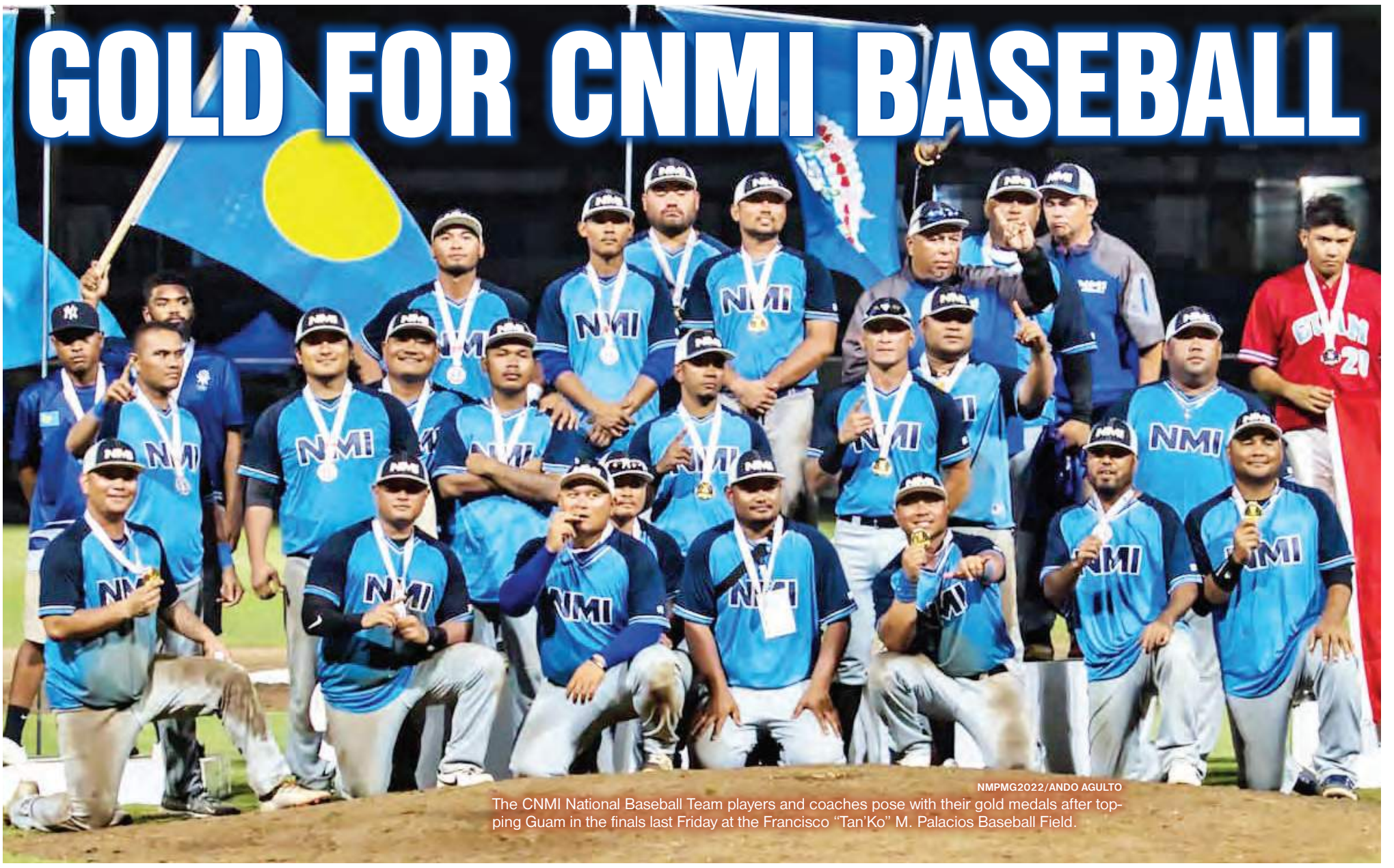
GOLD FOR CNMI BASEBALL



NMPMG2022/ANDO AGULTO
The CNMI National Baseball Team players and coaches pose with their gold medals after topping Guam in the finals last Friday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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With a crowd of close to 1,000 and online viewers of 17,000 directed toward an action-packed final battle for the gold last Friday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field, the CNMI National Baseball Team beat Guam, 12-9, to come up victorious and maintain its baseball supremacy in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

This win against their archrivals came after the host island had no baseball field to practice on and no league to play in for the past three years due to the damage sustained by the Oleai Sports Complex from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. The Tan'Ko field was finally reconstructed anew in the nick of time for the Games.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

Just a few hours earlier, Team NMI advanced to the finals after beating team Palau, 2-1, in a pitching duel.

Winning pitcher Joshua Jones, who came all the way from Arizona to represent the CNMI, threw all nine innings in the semis against Palau and had 17 strikeouts. The lefty amazingly came in relief starting in the fourth inning and added nine more strikeouts

See GOLD on Page 18

Zhimin strikes golf gold

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Men salvage bronze medal

Zhimin Jin is not just the future of CNMI golf as the 15-year-old proved she's also the present after winning the women's individual gold medal at the conclusion of the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Friday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

The Marianas High School student turned back challenges from Cook Islands' Rotana Howard and Samoa's Faith Vui to maintain her perch atop the leaderboard. Jin shot a par 72 in the fourth and final

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Zhimin Jin is flanked by Cook Islands' Rotana Howard, left, and Samoa's Faith Vui after winning the women's individual gold medal in the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Friday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Tennis nets 2 more gold medals

NMPMG2022/Quinn Bready

By MARK RABAGO
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NMPMG2022/QUINN BREADY
CNMI National Tennis Team players pose with national coach Jeff Race after the medal awards ceremony of the tennis competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Kneeling from left, Asia Raulerson, Serin Chung, Hye Jin Lee, and Isabel Herras. Standing from left, Colin Sinclair, Race, Colin Ramsay, Robbie Schorr, and Bobby Cruz.

» Herras finally gets a medal

The CNMI National Tennis Team added two more gold medals and a bronze as competition in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 wrapped up last Friday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ATP Tour veteran Colin Sinclair kicked things off for the wards of national coach Jeff Race by breezing past Papua New Guinea's Matthew

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